SUPER LOVERS
あべ美幸
スーパーラヴァーズ
4
MIYUKI ABE * ASUKA COMICS CL-DX

9784041200742

ISBN978-4-04-120074-2
C0979 ¥560E

発行 角川書店／定価：本体560円（税別）

1920979005600

——だって、カワイイんだ。
ダメだって判っているのに、
ちっとも拒めやしない。

一つ屋根の下、兄弟水入らずで暮らす晴（はる）、亜樹（あき）、蒔麻（しまま）、零（れん）の海棠（かいどう）家4兄弟。晴と零の関係もようやく前進したと思ったら、突然晴の母・春子（はるこ）がスイスから来日することに。再会を喜ぶ零に晴の気持ちは複雑。ところが、自分の出生や身元の秘密を偶然立ち聞いてしまったことから、零の様子がおかしくなる。おまけに春子が零をスイスに連れていくと言い出して…!?　別離!?　晴のお見合い!?　男同士の×××って!?　苦労性長男、超美形双子、野生児末っ子の4兄弟が贈る一筋縄じゃいかないトラブル・ラブ第4巻!!　描き下ろしも収録♥

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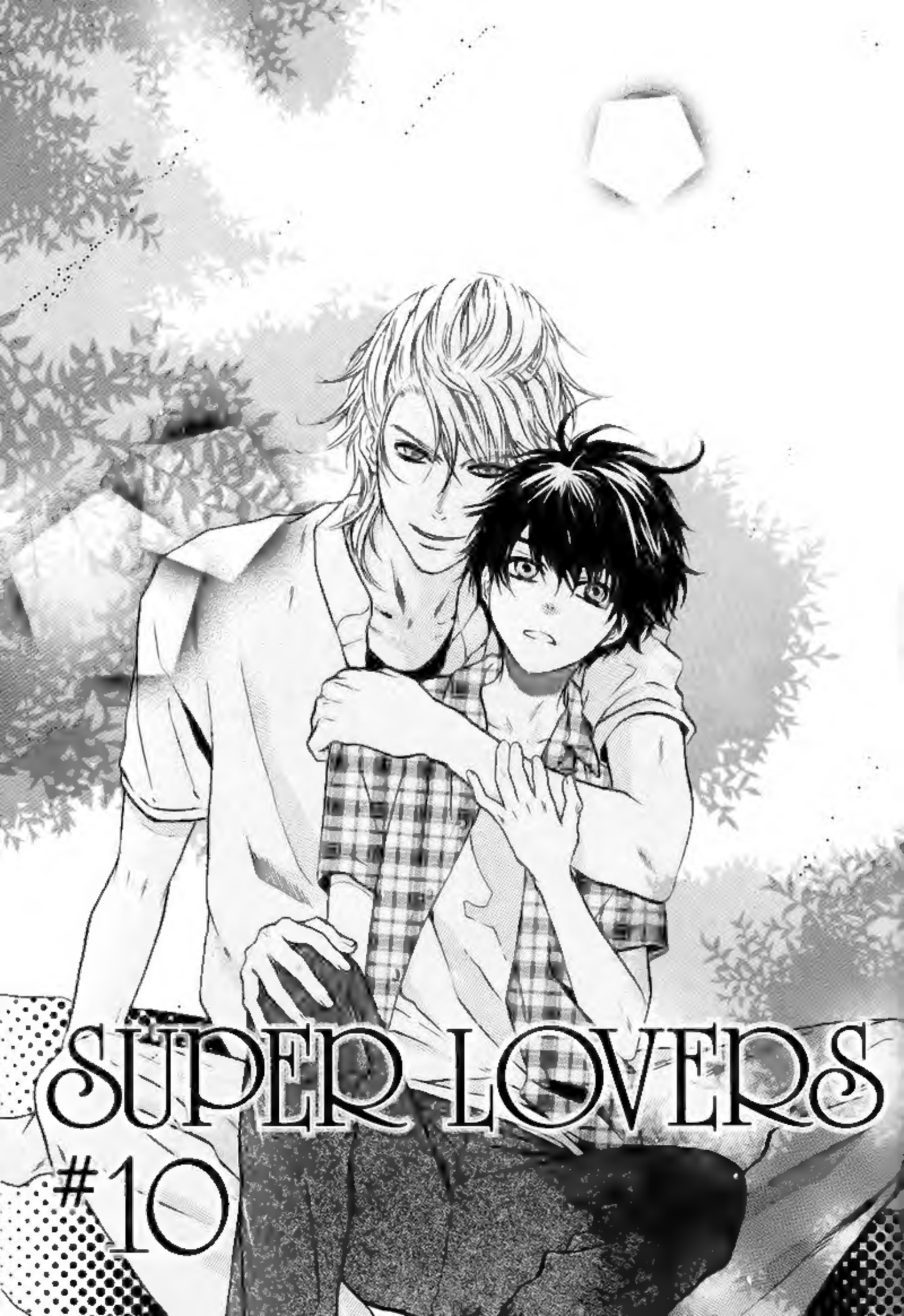
SUPER LOVERS
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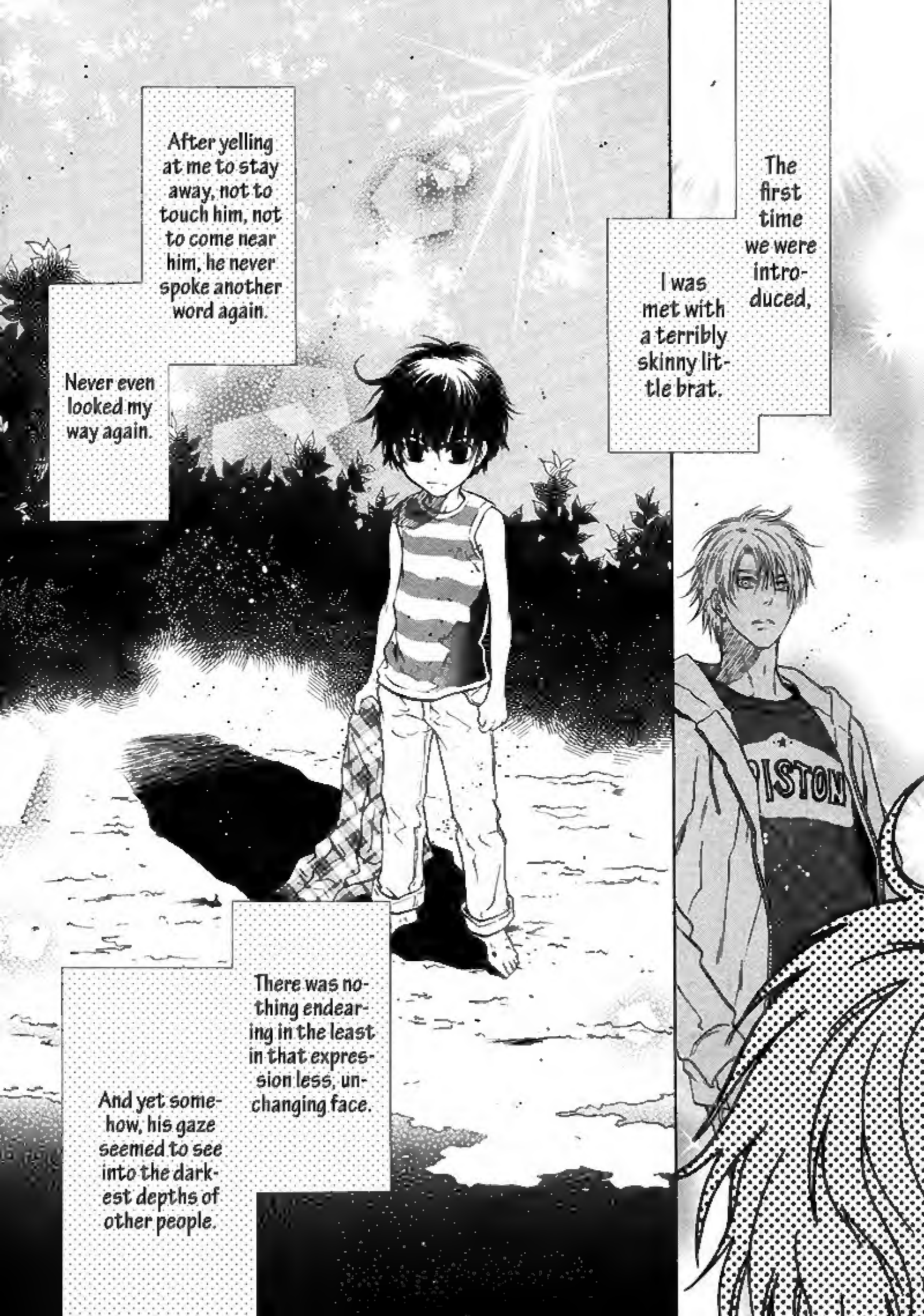

The first time we were introduced,
I was met with a terribly skinny little brat.
After yelling at me to stay away, not to touch him, not to come near him, he never spoke another word again.
Never even looked my way again.
There was nothing endearing in the least in that expressionless, unchanging face.
And yet somehow, his gaze seemed to see into the darkest depths of other people.

I found that...
And to tell the truth...
...exceedingly unpleasant.

...I became totally engrossed with that kid.
But that's all in the past now,
and once I managed to get his lid off...
HARU ...
But it's getting kind of hard nowadays to pass it off as him being a kid and ergo I can't possibly leave him to his own devices.
HARU?
SHIMAAA, GET ME COFFEE!
TIRED?
WHAT'RE YOU SPACING OUT FOR...?
CRAP CRAP CRAP!
IT'S BURNING...
.....
YOU'RE ALREADY UP!
AND WHY CAN'T YOU GET IT BY YOURSELF, I WONDER?
sizzle
ACK!
HUH?

HARU?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
It's not that Ren has really changed any...
HE'S STILL SILENT, EXPRESSIONLESS, AND LEAVES ME WONDERING WHAT'S ON HIS MIND ON OCCASION...
But still...
Haru vision
I'll perk up if you let me hug you~~!
TOO HOT!
NII-SAN,
DO YOU NOT NEED TO GO PICK UP HARUKO-SAN...?
YOU'RE STIFLING!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING TO FEED ME...?
YOU'RE MAKING STUFF FOR MY BENTOU, RIGHT?
flatly
YOU'RE THAT WORRIED FOR ME...?
BADUMP
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ADORABLE CREATURE...?!

WELL, IT'S TRUE!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IF ANIKI'S MOM'S GONNA BE HERE,
MAYBE I'LL HANG AT THE SAGAMIS' PLACE FOR A WHILE...
AKI?
I'LL GO!
NO, YOU ARE GOING TO SCHOOL.
AND I HAVE WORK.
YOU'D GET LOST BEFORE YOU HIT NARITA AIRPORT.
BUT TOKYO'S CROWDED!
WHAT IF SHE GETS LOST?
WELL, I COULD,
BUT IT'S NOT HER FIRST TIME IN JAPAN.
I'VE NEVER MET HER...
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I HATE HER.
SHE NEVER ONCE CAME TO SEE ANIKI WHEN EVERYTHING WENT TO SHIT.

REN!
IT'S 7:30, HURRY UP AND EAT!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR ONLY SON BEING ON HIS DEATH BED?
BUT... THAT'S--
YOU CAN HAVE MY EGGWHITE.
WHERE DID THE 'SUN' IN MY SUNNY-SIDE-UP EGG GO...?
AKI...
FLIP
only ate the yolk
HARU, YOU SAID HARUKO WOULD GET TO NARITA THIS AFTERNOON.
IF SHE CALLS, THEN PHONE ME! OR TEXT!
FREE VENICE
FINE!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY. SHE'LL BE JUST FINE!
NIISAN.
SQUAWK
I SAID YOU CAN HAVE MY WHITE!
YOU TOOK MY FOOD AGAIN!!
YOU ATE MY PUDDING IN THE FRIDGE BEFORE TOO!
COMPLAIN
HM? WHAT IS IT?

Push
WHEN I THINK...
...ABOUT HOW SHE MIGHT REACT SEEING HOW YOU AND REN INTERACT WITHOUT SOME PREPARATION
I WOULDN'T MIND GOING TO PICK HER UP FROM NARITA IF YOU LIKE...?
HUH?
BUT--YOU'VE NEVER MET HARUKO-SAN BEFORE...
SHE'S KIND OF WEIRD, SO YOU'D DEFINITELY FREAK OUT JUST MEETING HER OUT OF THE BLUE!
But I haven't even done anything yet
OH GOD. I'LL BE KILLED.
BUT...THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN HER IN...7 YEARS?
REN'S AMAZING..
ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT SHOWING HER FACE, BUT ONE WORD FROM REN HAS HER COMING TO JAPAN...I WONDER WHAT HE SAID...?
JOLT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
SO, SEE?
I'LL MAKE SURE SHE'S THOROUGHLY BRIEFED

or that
said that
EX-CUSE ME?
IF I TOLD HER THAT KIND OF THING. I'D BE TOAST. !
Dear Ren.
I've decided to come to Japan to see you. You can fill me in on the details when I arrive.
HARUKO

AH, BUT
GOOD GOD, JAPAN AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...
.. IS A FUCKING HELLHOLE!
SFX STEP
...I SUPPOSE IT'LL BE HIS FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING A JAPANESE SUMMER AS WELL...

.....?
'SUP, REN?
MESSIN' WITH YOUR PHONE ALL MORNING-- LIKE A 21ST-CENTURY K.D. AT LAST!
tap tap
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A 21ST-CENTURY K.D.
I KNOW HOW TO USE A PHONE.
All you use it for is business! And only within 3 lines, too
YEAH RIGHT! YOUR TEXT REPLIES READ LIKE SOMETHING MY GRANDFATHER WOULD SAY!
AH!
Grandfather
.....
SO! THAT TEXT!
'S IT FOR YOUR BIG BRO?
HE SENT ME A TEXT SAYING THAT SHIMA WENT TO NARITA...
I REALLY WANTED TO GO TOO...
NARITA?
SOMEONE VISITING?
HARUKO.

SFX: RATTLE, CLATTER
SO WHO THE HELL IS THIS 'HARUKO' THEN?!
SHE'S HARU'S MOTHER.
SHE'S COMING TO JAPAN TODAY.
HIS OLD LADY?!
WAIT--DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE ANY FOLKS...?
THE KAIDOU PARENTS PASSED AWAY, BUT HARU'S MOTHER'S STILL ALIVE AND WELL.
OH RIGHT-- YOUR FOLKS REMARRIED, LIKE MINE
I can kinda picture it
SO YOUR BIG BRO'S OLD LADY..
SHE'S PROBABLY A TOTAL HOTTIE!
INDEED SHE IS.
AND SMART, TOO.
SHE'S A GENIUS WHO'D ALREADY FINISHED HER DOCTORATE COURSES BY THE TIME SHE WAS MY AGE.
.....
sparkle sparkle
.NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS
MIND IF I GO MEET HER THEN?
Haruko's amazing!

Exit 4
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!
I WON'T LET YOU SEE HER!
WHY NOT?!
YOU'LL RUIN IT.
RUIN WHAT?!
NII-SAN?
YES, I'M ON THE ARRIVALS FLOOR.
WELL, YOU DID SHOW ME A PHOTO, BUT IT'S SO OLD NOW...
IF HARUKO-SAN CONTACTS YOU, COULD YOU ASK HER TO CALL MY CELL PHONE?
OKAY.

And looks just like Ni-san
I THINK I MIGHT SEE HER NOW ..
WOW HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!
AH...
UMM, EXCUSE ME...?
HA-RUKO-SAN?
?
WHO ARE YOU?
SHIMA.
KAIDOU SHIMA.
OH--I'VE GOT MY BRO-THER ON THE LINE HERE.
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME HARUKO-SAN, YOU MORON!
THIS LADY JUST HUNG UP ON HIM!
CLICK
Wai-
Mom?

BUT MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN!
I SAW A PICTURE OF YOU WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE--
--BUT I HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU NOW!
Ah...
SO YOU'RE SHIMA, HUH?
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO PICK ME UP?
Yeah...I can kind of see what drew Ren to her...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S FINE JUST HANGING UP ON NINSAN LIKE THAT?
HA HA HA HA!
DON'T SWEAT IT!!
SO WANNA GRAB SOME SUSHI?

EH?!
NO WAY! YOUR MOM'S COMING?!
TELL ME THAT KIND OF THING SOONER!
I'VE GOTTA MENTALLY PREPARE MYSELF TO MEET HER!
...WHY WOULD YOU NEED TO MEET MY MOM?
I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU NEEDING ANY KING OF PRE-PARATION TO MEET HER!
ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T NEED TO MEET HER PERIOD!
NOOO WAY!
THIS KIND OF FUN DOESN'T COME TOO OFTEN! ♡
Mwahaha! "Oh, I'm Haru's mother~!"
.....
JOLT
BUT--DOESN'T YOUR MOTHER WORK OVERSEAS, HARU-SAN...?
IS SHE IN JAPAN ON BUSI-NESS ?
Eh?
Oh... uh...
There's the rub.

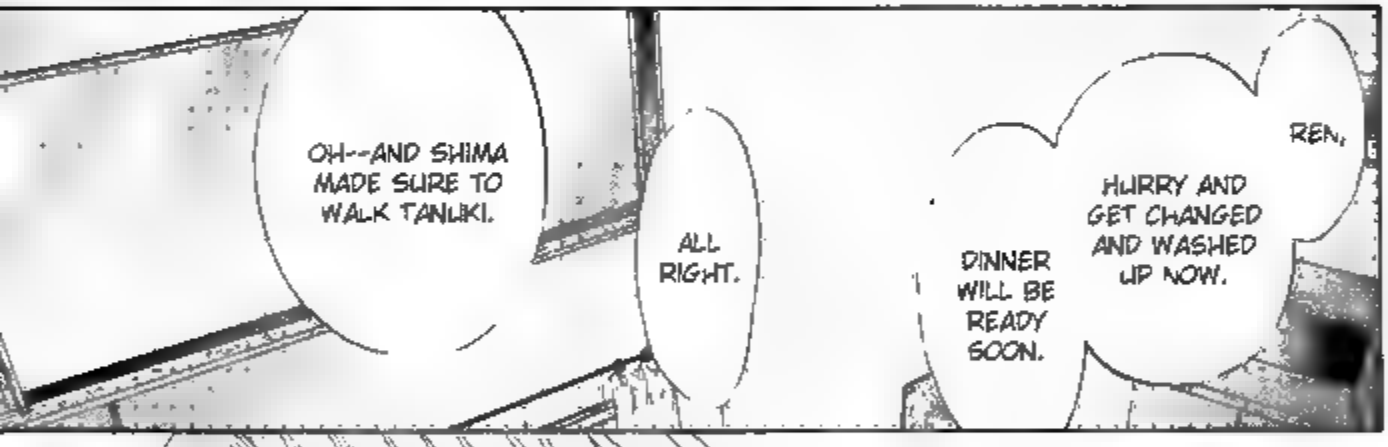
Ah. I hear you lose patience with age
but she hung up on me when I tried to ask
Sounds like she's at Nar ta now
What reason could she have had for flying here from Switzerland despite saying she's so busy just from one little e-mail from Ren...?
In other words, the contents of that e-mail are the issue.
But...
"WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I..."
That means...
Must be rutting season.
SOUND ABOUT RIGHT?
"I DON'T... FEEL ANYTHING WHEN I'M WITH OTHERS, BUT..."
"YEAH?"
"GIVEN HOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'M EVER THINK-ING ABOUT..."
"... THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME."

AND SEEING AS IT'S NOT JUST REN...
...BUT YOU AS WELL WHO'S GOING THROUGH IT.
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO DISCIPLINE YOU A BIT MORE.
SHE FOUND OUT?!
Don't tell me...
HOLY CRAP, SHE'S HOT!
And so young!
Wel come...

HAVE BEEN FOR A WHILE!
YOU'RE HERE ALREADY?!
HARU-KO!!
HARU!
HEY--SHE GOT HERE BEFORE I COULD CONTACT YOU!
SAME GOES FOR YOU.
YOU SEEM WE...
THAT'S GREAT.
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO TANUKI!
HOW LONG WILL YOU STAY?
YOU'RE NOT INCORRECT IN THAT FEELING
KIND OF FEELS LIKE HIS OWNER'S RETURNED HUH
Oh
His NAME is Tanuki
Looks like a dog to me.
HARU-KO...?

HARU--
REN.
LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE.
YOU WERE ALWAYS SO TINY IN MY MEMORIES...
...BUT YOU'VE GROWN UP N NO TIME AT ALL...
...AND YOUR VOICE IS DIFFERENT TOO...
PLUS...
YOU'RE A LOT MORE CHATTY NOW!
OH... AM I ANNOYING YOU THEN?
YOU LITTLE IDIOT--WHO SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
BESIDES, I LIKE YOUR VOICE..
TALK TO ME SOME MORE
.....
UH... OKAY.
Feels so unfair

...genetic??
She's got Ren acting like a little kitten...
Could it be ..
?
WHAT'S WRONG, SHIMA?
I knew my brother had been born with this air-headed habit of his, but...
...NOTHING.


OH--AND SHIMA MADE SURE TO WALK TANUKI.
ALL RIGHT.
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON.
HURRY AND GET CHANGED AND WASHED UP NOW.
REN,

I'M HERE ON BUSINESS TOO.
AND I SHOULDN'T MAKE A NUISANCE OF MYSELF
HOTEL?
YOU'RE NOT STAYING HERE?
HARDLY!
I SUPPOSE I'LL GO GET SETTLED IN AT MY HOTEL.
WE'LL CHAT SOME MORE LATER, REN

URK.
utterly
depressed
I.
I SEE...
EXCUSE ME, HARUKO-SAN?
Y--YEAH, REN! HARUKO'S GOT WORK TO TAKE CARE OF HERE!
AKI'S ACTUALLY STAYING WITH THE SAGAMIS FOR A BIT.
...AND I HAVE UNIVERISTY CLASSES, SO I WON'T BE HERE MUCH.
AND WITH NIISAN BUSY WITH THE SHOP LATELY, I'M SURE REN'S FEELING A BIT LONELY
..
YES? AND?
IF YOU DON'T MIND STAYING IN A RATHER SQUALID ALL-MALE HOUSE, WE'D BE MORE THAN PLEASED TO HAVE YOU HERE ..
!
RIGHT, REN?

In Haru's room.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
I'LL CANCEL MY HOTEL RESERVATION
Good grief,
He's certainly learned some strange methods of getting his way in the few years since I saw him...
Yup yup
.....
I'll get it straightened up right away
THEN-- SHALL WE PUT HER UP IN THE JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM. .?
I HARDLY EVER USE IT, AFTER ALL.
SHE CAN USE MINE.
OH. I SEE.
JOLT
OVER THERE,
You're not back in the garage with the dogs still, are you ?
I sleep in a bed now.
'HARDLY EVER USE IT'?
THEN-- WHERE DO YOU SLEEP?

IT SEEMS WE REALLY ARE IN NEED OF SOME DISCIPLINE AROUND HERE...
IT--IT'S NOT WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE...!!
REN--JUST PIPE DOWN FOR A MINUTE...!!
BUT HARU'S BED'S PRETTY BIG, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY BAD SLEEPING HABITS, SO. .?
?
SIT, BOY.
?
WOULD THAT BE SELF-DESTRUCTION, OR FRIENDLY FIRE. .?
HARUKO,
IS THIS WHERE YOU WANT YOUR SUITCASE?

SURE.
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
WE PUT NEW SHEETS ON THE BED.
BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, WE'LL GET IT TOMORROW.
snicker
I CAN HANDLE THAT MYSELF, SO DON'T YOU WORRY.
STILL,
YOU REALLY DON'T USE THIS ROOM MUCH, HUH?
YOUR BED AND DESK ARE BRAND NEW...
WELL, WE JUST MOVED HERE THIS SPRING, AND I MAKE SURE TO CLEAN!
GOOD GRIEF.
SENDING ME THAT STRANGE E-MAIL OUT OF THE BLUE HAD ME WONDERING WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU WERE LIVING HERE...
...BUT YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING ON QUITE WELL, ACTUALLY.
OH!
I WAS WORRIED WHEN I READ THE CONTENTS: "MY BODY'S BEEN FUNNY LATELY AM I SICK?"...
...BUT THERE'S NO WAY HARU WOULDN'T NOTICE IF YOU WERE SICK.
SORRY, THAT WAS.

BUT-- YOU AND HARU ARE THE SAME AS EVER.
AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN BACK HIS MEMORIES, TOO.
...I DID.
SORRY TO WORRY YOU.
...SO?
DID YOU RESOLVE IT ?
IT TAKES ME BACK TO THAT SUMMER WE ALL SPENT TOGETHER 7 YEARS AGO.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND A HALF SINCE I LAST SAW YOU. I KINDA MISSED YOU
DON'T SWEAT IT.
I'M SORRY.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D COME ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR ME.
I'M STILL AN 8-YEAR-OLD KID TO HIM.
...WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, IT FEELS LIKE NEITHER HE NOR I HAVE CHANGED ONE BIT ..
...BUT THAT MIGHT JUST BE THE WAY HE IS ALL THE TIME.
HE ALWAYS SPOILS ME .
...I DON'T KNOW.
AND YOU HATE BEING TREATED LIKE A CHILD?

THEN IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH.
YOU MIGHT SEE IT AS HIM DOTING ON YOU, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY BEING SELFISH
EVERYTHING HARU DOES TO YOU...
...IS--IN REALITY--WHAT HE WANTS SOMEONE TO DO TO HIM.
I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THAT LONG AGO.
MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU!
BUT...
IT'S POINTLESS TO PINE AFTER SOMETHING YOU CAN'T HAVE.
HE KNOWS BETTER THAN TO EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ME BY NOW.
THEN WHY HAS HE NEVER TOLD YOU THAT HIMSELF, HARUKO?
HE'D RATHER HAVE YOU, ANYWAY.
TO DOTE ON, AND TO BE DOTED ON BY.

REN.
YOU'RE LATE!
I'M ABOUT TO FALL A-SLEEP HERE.
OPEN
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME TALK-ING WITH HA-RUKO-SAN.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND A HALF SINCE I SAW HER.
WE HAD A LOT TO DISCUSS.
...
...YOU TWO SURE ARE CLOSE, HUH.
SHE'S YOUR BIOLOGICAL MO-THER...BUT YOU NEVER SEE EACH OTHER, AND YOU DON'T SPEAK
AND YET, YOU AREN'T ON BAD TERMS EITHER...
. NOR ARE YOU INDIFFER-ENT TO-WARDS ONE ANO-THER.
HM?
I FIND IT KIND OF STRANGE SOMETIMES.

She's never been very motherly
HUH...?
AREN'T ALL ADULT SONS AND THEIR MOTHERS LIKE THAT...?
OR MAYBE IT'S MORE LIKE A SON AND FATHER...
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE STRONGER FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE YOU'RE ACTUALLY RELATED TO BY BLOOD.
WELL, SHE *IS* MY MOTHER. I DON'T DISLIKE HER.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO KID WHO ACTUALLY *HATES* THEIR PARENTS.
BEFORE... WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND SHE TOLD ME OUT OF THE BLUE I WAS MOVING TO JAPAN FROM CANADA...
WE'RE BOTH SATISFIED SO LONG AS THE OTHER'S DOING WELL.
IS THAT HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE?
...IT KIND OF PISSED ME OFF THAT SHE DECIDED IT WITHOUT ME, BUT ..
NOW I UNDERSTAND IT WAS FOR MY OWN GOOD.

WHAT'S WRONG?
?
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
GEEZ.
SO NOW YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME, AFTER I STAYED UP WAITING FOR YOU ..?
Haru and I are completely different
It's times like this that I feel that the most keenly .
If that's how things truly are...then why am I even here?

BET YOU'RE GLAD HARUKO-SAN'S HERE NOW, HUH?
!
G'NIGHT, REN...
KISS
SO MUCH SO YOU WEREN'T PAYING ME A BIT OF ATTENTION.
...WAS I REALLY THAT PUMPED UP?
RUSTLE
After all...
...I've got nothing.
EH?!
.....CAN'T.
SURE WOULD BE NICE IF YOU ACTED LIKE THAT AROUND ME SOME! ♡
WELL, I WILL ADMIT YOU'RE CUTE A-ROUND HER.
...SORRY.

Note: Ren's name in kanji can also be read "Rei", meaning "zero."
...just like my name suggests.

AKI...
YO!
WEL-COME HOME.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D BE AWAY FOR A WHILE?
HEY! IT'S MY HOME, I CAN COME BACK WHEN-EVER I FEEL LIKE IT.
WELL SURE, BUT...
NIISAN'S BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP, ISN'T IT?
I'M SURE HE'S FOR-GOTTEN, BUT I THOUGHT WE COULD PUT SOME-THING TO-GETHER.
IT'S AL-WAYS A PAIN IN THE ASS WITH ANIKI THOUGH!
THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PRO-BLEM.

Reviewing the past...
Every thing he's done to you
We just do all that to him
So
To Ren
YOU MEAN YOU'VE ALREADY GOT SOMETHING IN MIND? FILL US IN TOO, C'MON!
HUH?
APPARENTLY EVERYTHING HARU DOES TO ME IS SOMETHING HE WANTS FOR HIMSELF
HARUKO TOLD ME AS SUCH
OH HERE GO HELL COME!!
NO WAY, HELL NO NO WAY!
OOOOOH NO THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAAAAY!!
THAT'S FUCKING CRIMINAL!!
AKI, JUST CALM DOWN
YOU ASKED AND I ANSWERED, SO WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION ?
WHAT DID YOU DO LAST YEAR ?
IN CANADA.
I CAN'T KISS MY BROTHER!!
I MADE DINNER FOR HIM.
Curry
Just touched the rice cooker

LET'S HAVE A CURRY PARTY FOR HIS BIRTHDAY!
Curry
WELL, WHATEVER! LET'S HAVE THAT!
...OH WOW, NOW I'M KIND OF CRAVING SOME CURRY.
Curry'
SURE!
I COULD GO FOR IT RIGHT NOW! ♡
...YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT CURRY...
EVER SINCE THEN, HE'S SAID, "YOURS IS THE BEST!" AND REFUSED TO COOK IT EVER AGAIN.
Ren's cooking, huh.
I'LL BET NIISAN WAS THRILLED BY THAT...
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY OUR DINNER MENU NEVER CHANGES!
NOW I GET IT!!
OKAY! That settles it!
I'm never, ever in my whole life...
going to eat any curry but the curry Ren makes!!
Why? You shouldn't be a picky eater!
REN!
NAH.
Uh huh.
AND YOU DON'T MIND THAT, REN?
I'll drop in later
CAN YOU GO POUR THEM SOME TEA?
PROBABLY CAME TO SEE HARUKO-SAN.
SURE.
MIKIKO?
WHAT?
MIKIKO-SAN'S OVER IN THE RESIDENCE.

I'M PAYING FOR IT.
SO?
GOOD GRIEF, YOU DO REALIZE WE DON'T SPECIALIZE IN OVERSEAS MISSING PERSONS, RIGHT?
I SEE.
THANKS, YOU'VE HELPED.
ABOUT YOUR REQUEST...
I LOOKED INTO IT.
YOU'RE STILL AS DULL AS EVER...
THE BODY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR WAS DISPOSED OF AS A JANE DOE IN THE CITY OF SEATTLE.
TEN YEARS AGO.
IT WAS A TYPICAL OVERDOSE CASE--AND SHE DIED AT THE HOSPITAL SHE WAS CHECKED INTO THREE DAYS LATER.
A WOMAN IN HER 20S, OF ASIAN DESCENT, WAS TRANSPORTED TO A HOSPITAL VIA AMBULANCE FROM A MOTEL IN THE SUBURBS
NO ID OF ANY SORT, NO PASSPORT ON HER.
NOR WAS SHE FOUND ON ANY MISSING PERSONS LIST.
WHAT ABOUT THIS IS OF ANY REMOTE INTEREST TO YOU?
I MET A MAN ON A BUSINESS TRIP RECENTLY--WORKS AS A REPORTER FOR A SEATTLE NEWSPAPER...
HIS WIFE IS HALF-JAPANESE AND WORKED AS A NURSE UP UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO.

SEEING AS I'M PART JAPANESE TOO, WE HAPPENED TO CHAT ABOUT HIS WIFE ..
..AND APPARENTLY WHILE SHE WAS NURSING, THERE WAS A CURIOUS PATIENT IN HER CARE
SO--THIS WOMAN?
IT SEEMS BEFORE SHE DIED, SHE CONFESSED...
...IN JAPANESE,
THAT SHE'D SOLD HER OWN SON FOR DRUGS.
OH...MY GOD' WAIT--THAT CHILD, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY MEAN...
THE BOY'S NAME WAS EITHER 'REN' OR 'ALAN'.
SHE COULDN'T QUITE CATCH IT, AND THE WOMAN WASN'T IN ANY STATE TO SAY MORE BY THEN
APPARENTLY THEY REPORTED IT TO THE POLICE, BUT THEY FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A CHILD AT THE HOTEL SHE'D BEEN STAYING AT
NO ONE REPORTED SEEING A CHILD EITHER.
BUT SHE'D ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT IT
UGH, FINE!
A TOWN CALLED SULLEY, SOME 30 KILOMETERS EAST OF VANCOUVER.
THREE MONTHS AFTER THE WOMAN DIED.
WHEN AND WHERE WAS REN FOUND?

NO.
DO YOU PLAN ON TELLING HIM ABOUT THIS...?
THAT'S CLOSE'
THIS IS GIVING ME THE CREEPS
WE'VE GOT NO PROOF, AND FROM ALL THAT I'VE HEARD, IT'S NOT A HAPPY TALE
BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF LEADS.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE WORTH IT TO TRACK DOWN HIS RELATIVES,
THAT BOY OUT THERE IS KAIDOU REN.
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO DISCUSS IT, THAT'S FINE.
IF HE'S FORGOT-TEN, EVEN BETTER
REN NEVER SPEAKS OF WHAT HAP-PENED BE-FORE I TOOK GUARDIAN-SHIP OF HIM
HE'S ALREADY GOT ALL THE FAMILY HE'LL EVER NEED.

REN?
Adults who draw near with a smile are scary too; they lie.
Adults are scary; they raise their fists at you.
But the scariest ones are the ones that are kind...
REN...?
OH, NO... JUST--IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE TALKING BUSINESS, SO...
GUESS WE'D BETTER NOT DISTURB 'EM, THEN.
OH-- I SEE
AH...
WHAT'RE YOU SITTING OUT HERE FOR?
DID YOU NOT SEE HARUKO-SAN...?
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WRONG...?
Because they...

...HARU.
HM?
OH...?
SURE.
I WANT TO SHOW HARUKO THE TANUKI AT THE ZOO
..YOU THINK SHE'LL COME?
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THAT?
Why you cute little—
YOU KNOW SHE'D NEVER TURN DOWN A REQUEST FROM YOU, AFTER ALL!
MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S THE SPECIAL OCCASION ..?
REN...?

...NO-THING
HEY-- WAIT!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, IT'S FINE.
!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, SERIOUSLY?
WHOA THERE
I CAN'T JERK YOU OFF IF YOU GET TURNED ON OUT HERE, Y'KNOW
WHOP
NGH...

SCOOP
ARGH, GEEZ!
GET IN HERE, REN!

...I SEE
AKI AND SHIMA ARE HERE TODAY, SO THE'LL HANDLE EVERYTHING
I'M ALL DONE FOR THE DAY.
OKAY--NO ONE'LL COME IN HERE FOR A WHILE
WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP?
Since the day I learned that Haruko-san was coming to Japan...
Yeah yeah. go for it
RE-VERT-ING TO CHILD-HOOD?
snuggle snuggle
.. it's kind of felt like some weird reset button's been pushed with this guy...
But... how do I put it...
I have to admit he's cute like this too.
Well...
chomp
.....

AKI AND SHIMA LIVE WITH ME AS IF IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL .
AND HARUKO TOO.
THE KAIDOUS .
THEY TOOK ME IN TO BE A LITTLE BROTHER TO YOU ALL, RIGHT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT!
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE WITH YOU IS IF I'M HERE AS "KAIDOU REN"!
REN?!
EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING IT'S FINE FOR ME TO BE "KAIDOU REN"--
BUT I...
.....
There there
...WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT YOU. ?
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
OKAY, ALL RIGHT.
AH-- FINE!
REN?!

. . .SO HOW CAN YOU KNOW IF YOU LOVE OR HATE THEM IF THEY'RE NOT AROUND...?
.....
I'M SORRY, REN...
THEY ABANDONED YOU WHILE YOU WERE STILL SO YOUNG...
BECAUSE I SAID YESTERDAY THAT NO CHILD HATES HIS PARENTS?
OH-- WAIT, IS THIS MY FAULT?
NO, TH--
...YOU CAN BE ANYONE'S KID FOR ALL I CARE.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE THE REN I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN--SINCERE AND SO STUBBORN.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A KAIDOU.
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU'RE FROM, REN ..
.....
HARUKO'S THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE CHARACTER "零" FOR THE NAME 'REN'
HM?
BUT...MY NAME .
'ZERO' ?
I THOUGHT IT FIT ME PERFECTLY...SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.
THAT CHARACTER... IT ALSO MEANS 'ZERO', RIGHT?

AH...THAT REMINDS ME, HARUKO WAS THE ONE TO NAME ME 'HARU', TOO ..
APPARENTLY HER RELATIONSHIP WITH MY OLD MAN WAS ALREADY ON THE ROCKS WHEN I WAS BORN..
SHE GOT ANNOYED WITH IT ALL, SO SHE JUST GAVE ME HER OWN NAME
BUT--I FEEL LIKE SHE DID IT PARTLY FOR REVENGE TOO.
.....?
RE-VENGE?
SEEMS LIKE THEY FOUGHT OVER CUSTODY OF ME, SINCE I WAS STILL LITTLE
HARUKO-SAN--SHE SUCKS AT PRETTY MUCH ALL HOUSEHOLD CHORES. SO MY DAD WAS KIND OF WORRIED.
What? Cooking? Cleaning? Any sort of houre-work?
I don't plan on lifting even a pinky for any of that stuff.
OH...I CAN SEE THAT...
SO JUST IN CASE SHE LOST CUSTODY...SHE GAVE ME MY NAME. AS INSURANCE, I GUESS.
AND HOW DOES THAT AMOUNT TO 'REVENGE'?
BECAUSE EVERY TIME HE CALLED MY NAME, HE'D BE FORCED TO REMEMBER HIS EX-WIFE!
PRETTY FRICKING AMAZING, RIGHT??
And Kind of scary too?
...I DON'T GET IT.
WHY NOT?!
RIGHT?

JUST--YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HARUKO
HE WOULDN'T NEED TO CALL YOUR NAME TO REMEMBER HER. SEEING YOUR FACE WOULD BE ENOUGH
AND EVERY TIME I SAW HER FACE
I'D REMEMBER YOU

SFX SQUEEEEZE
GEEZ, REN!! YOU ARE JUST TOOOO CUTE!
!!!
IT IS NOT!!
...ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM YOU IS BOUND TO BE DIRTY, THEN.
AS THANKS, YOUR BIG BRO IS GONNA TELL YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL NOW!
.....?
THE CHARACTER FOR 'REN' DOESN'T MEAN 'ZERO'!
IT'S YOUR NAME!
THAT CHARACTER IN JAPANESE MEANS...
THEN... WHAT DOES IT...
REALLY REALLY TINY!!
Like in the word for 'small business'
THAT'S THE REAL MEANING!

SFX: SHOVE OPEN
SLAM
HARU-KO!!
GAH!
YOU WERE SO TINY BACK THEN, SO--
TOTALLY A 'HARUKO-SAN' THING TO DO, HUH!
WHAT?
I'M NOT SOME OLD HAG--YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL FOR ME TO HEAR.
HA-RU-KO!!
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
WAI--
REN?!

I WASN'T INTENDING ON BRINGING THIS UP, BUT...
I SUPPOSE IT'S PARTLY MY FAULT AS WELL.
"DO YOU PLAN ON TELLING HIM ABOUT THIS?"
DOLT
AH...
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. WE NEED TO TALK.
HAVE A SEAT.
MY... NAME!
half crying
YOUR NAME?
"April **th,"
"I adopted a tanuki. But Haru told me it wasn't a tanuki, so we went to a nearby zoo to see the tanuki they had."
"The tanuki turned out to not be a tanuki but actually 'Tanuki.'"
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A TANUKI?!
Our tanuki
The zoo tanuki
GAAAAAAAAAAH!
THIS IS JUST TOO STUPID! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!
pfft
OH DEAR, DID REN WRITE THIS...?

DON'T LOOK AT PEOPLE'S STUFF WITHOUT PERMISSION, GEEZ!
I ALWAYS ASSUMED BOYS YOUR AGE KEPT PORNO MAGAZINES UNDER THEIR BEDS.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF KEEPING THAT KIND OF THING AROUND?
THAT'S MY BUSINESS!
so cute
YEAH! HE'S DOING GREAT IN ALL HIS OTHER CLASSES, SO--
IT'S NOT THAT BAD...
STIFLE IT, HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT.
WHAT'S WITH THE DISCRIMINATION
I HEARD FROM MIKIKO.
ABOUT YOUR ISSUES IN JAPANESE CLASS.
School board member
YOU CAN LISTEN AND READ FINE...
...BUT YOU'RE WORSE THAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS WHEN IT COMES TO WRITING AND SPEAKING!
BUT I DRILLED ENLGISH, GERMAN, FRENCH, AND SPANISH INTO YOUR HEAD.
IT'D BE A WASTE TO PASS YOUR TEENS NOT USING THEM.
THERE'S NO NEED TO STUDY JAPANESE ANYMORE, RIGHT?
SOURYOU IS A NICE SCHOOL--
--BUT MOVING ON TO A JAPANESE COLLEGE IS POINTLESS
EVEN THE TOP INSTITUTIONS HERE ARE NOTHING ON AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE.

REN,
Sorry 'bout that!
ALL OF THOSE WHO'VE TUTORED YOU THUS FAR HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE, WITH DOCTORATES OF THEIR OWN ALREADY.
UNLIKE YOUR BROTHER BEHIND YOU--YOU'RE SMART.
YOU'VE SAID YOU WANTED TO LIVE WITH HARU--
--SO I LET THIS SLIDE BEFORE...
TH--THE TEACHER... SAID I LACKED FEELING...
FEELING?
YOU MEAN THE JAPANESE, "GET A CLUE WITHOUT HAVING TO HAVE IT SPELLED OUT FOR YOU!" KIND OF FEELING?
AS IF ANYONE COULD 'GET A CLUE'!
SNAP
URK
AND YET, AS I HEAR IT, THAT ONE PAPER GOT YOUR SPECIAL LECTURES SUSPENDED, IT WAS SO TERRIBLE!
INDEED. HIS HOMEROOM TEACHER, ITOU-SENSEI, IS QUITE THE STRICT ONE
HE SAID HE'D NEVER SEEN SUCH AN ELDERLY-SOUNDING KID IN HIS LIFE!

Wai...
BUT NOW THIS HAS BECOME A MATTER OF PERSONAL PRIDE!
Right, Mikiko?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!
Indeed
- Harvard graduate, IQ 185
- Final Club Member (secret club of elite Harvard grads)
- Currently employed as a researcher at CERN

AND FORTUNATELY, MY HOME IN SWITZERLAND IS FULL OF EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.
Hmph!
NEVER FEAR. YOU'RE ONLY A FIRST-YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO START THINGS OVER.

How...
ANY COMPLAINTS?
THE BOB FINEST PHYSICISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
ALL OF YOUR TUTORS WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE WERE CERN RESEARCHERS AS WELL
EEE-EEE-EEE-EEE-EH?!
THERE'S NO PLACE ELSE LIKE IT, RIGHT?
I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO SWITZERLAND WITH ME!
...did this happen?!

Scans: amyused Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: flutter Typesetting: fencer_x

SUPER LOVERS

#11

SUPER LOVERS #11

I don't really remember...

...much about my life before I was taken in by that orphanage.

Lots of adults asked me all sorts of questions,

but I could only tell them my name and birthdate.

The only thing I knew...

...was that I was an unwanted child.

The guy that showed up shortly after Haruko had adopted me...

...turned out to be the most annoyingly persistent human I'd ever met.

So...

I punched and kicked and bit and scratched...

...fighting against him with all my strength.

And yet despite this...

...he'd just pat my head.

I had my hand held and a hug offered and a kiss bestowed.

It left me feeling uneasy...

I couldn't wrap my mind around why he did that kind of thing.

It scared me.

OWWW!

WELL SHE JUST FLEW OFF THE HANDLE AT ME!

OWWW!

BECAUSE YOU CALL HER STUFF LIKE "DAMN COW."

REPLAY.

LEAVING HIM HERE WITH AN IDIOT BROTHER LIKE YOU WOULD BE A TOTAL WASTE!

HUH?!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING DECIDING SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHOUT CONSULTING ME, DAMN COW?!

I'M TAKING REN BACK TO SWITZERLAND AND GIVING HIM THE BEST EDUCATION I CAN!

THAT DAMN COW...

SHE REALLY SLUGGED ME ONE GOOD...

settle

IT'LL BE FINE.

?

...I FIG-URED YOU'D SAY THAT ...

IT WAS AN IMPRES-SIVE RIGHT STRAIGHT

nod

...BUT IT STILL KIND OF HURTS, STUPIDLY ENOUGH.

etc.
etc.
etc.

...AND I HAVE NO IN-TENTION OF LEAVING YOUR SIDE, EITHER.

I'M NOT GOING TO SWITZER-LAND...

RE...

MOVED

Rob and Fumie won't be around to take care of you two!

The thought of you and Haruko-san living alone terrifies me!

PLUS,

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT, REN...

OOH HEY...

HARUKO-SAN GETS BY ON COFFEE LIKE TAR AND BOOZE AND TOBACCO, BUT YOU'RE NOT LIKE HER!

twitch

WHY DO YOU AL-WAYS...

DO YOU THINK THE REASON YOU'RE SO SMA... COM-PARED WITH OTHERS IS BEC--

I CAN'T IMAGINE LIV-ING WITHOUT YOU ANYMORE.

AND I'M SURE I'D DIE FROM LONELIN-NESS IF I GOT ABAN-DONED.

REN! I'M HURT THERE! DON'T, PLEASE!

OWW OWW OWW OW!!

so small

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

..HAVE TO OPEN YOUR BIG TRAP?!

OWW!!

GIVE UP, GIVE UP!! I'M SERIOUS!! IT HURTS!! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

DON'T CALL ME SMALL

HEY...

TSK.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO RESCUE THAT ELDEST SON OF YOURS...?

THE YOUNGEST IS IN CHARGE OF DISCIPLINING THE OLDEST IN OUR HOUSEHOLD.

MIKOKO?

REN.

OH!

PERFECT TIMING. IF YOU'RE GOING HOME NOW, I'LL DRIVE YOU.

'Kay, I'm heading out now

YUP.

ME?

WE HAD A BIT OF A CHAT ABOUT YOU, AS WELL

AH, CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I'VE SPOKEN TO HARUKO AS WELL...

.....

IT'S AN UTTER WASTE FOR YOU TO BE TRIPPED UP BY YOUR JAPANESE LESSONS OF ALL THINGS.

JAPAN REALLY ONLY HAS ONE GENERALIZED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

I DON'T MIND TAKING THE SAME TEST AS THE OTHERS...

YOU'VE GOT END-OF-SEMESTER EXAMS COMING UP, YES?

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING? I ***SAW*** THAT PIECE OF PROSE YOU WROTE, YOU KNOW.

WE DISCUSSED WHETHER YOU'LL TAKE THE SAME TESTS AS EVERYONE ELSE, OR IF A SPECIAL EXAM WILL BE PREPARED JUST FOR YOU.

NOPE.

...SO YOU'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF SCHOOLING IN SWITZERLAND?

I'LL NEED THEM IF I'M EVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO LIVE PROPERLY IN JAPAN

...JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES ARE IMPORTANT.

CAN YOU NOT BRING YOURSELF...

.....

...TO LIVE WITH HARUKO IN SWITZERLAND...FOR *HER* SAKE?

...THEN LET ME REPHRASE,

CERN HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET HER TO COME BACK FOR YEARS.

SHE ALWAYS TURNED THEM DOWN BECAUSE SHE HAD ME.

SHE COULDN'T GO IF I WAS WITH HER.

BUT...

YES.

SHE'S HAD TO TAKE A LONG DETOUR BECAUSE OF ME. .

SHE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO LIVE SOMEPLACE SHE WAS NEEDED LONG AGO

TO LIVE WITH *HARU*, SHE SEEMED LIKE SHE'D FINALLY MADE UP HER MIND THEN.

WHEN I SAID I WANTED TO LIVE IN JAPAN,

HARUKO IS LONELY.

BUT YOU NEEDED HER TOO, DIDN'T YOU, REN ..?

OH GOOD HEAVENS NO--SHE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!

YEAH, BUT . SHE COULD'VE ALWAYS JUST SENT ME BACK TO THE INSTITUTION.

.....

WITH... HARUKO?

...TO FLY ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN AFTER JUST ONE E-MAIL FROM YOU...

I COULDN'T FATHOM WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER.

LONELY...?

HILARIOUS, RIGHT?

FOR THAT STUBBORN WOMAN...

BUT...

I SUPPOSE SHE FINALLY REALIZED AFTER LOSING HER "SON" FOR A SECOND TIME...

...JUST HOW LONELY SHE WAS...

...HAVING TO GIVE UP THINGS SHE CARED FOR...

I WAS ABUSED.

WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?!

AS IN *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*?!

OMG, HARU!!

Or did he get involved with a chick who had some gangster boy friend maybe?

Oh wow! So he finally got what was coming to him from a girl?

GEEZ!

YOUR FACE YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOOD, SO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF!

AH, WELCOME, OOTOMO-SAN

OH MY, HARU-CHAN!

...WHY YOU LITTLE...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE??

A FIGHT WITH YOUR BROTHER?

AND YOU'RE SUCH A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN, TOO..

SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

...MM...

WHADYA MEAN "ONLY"?!

YOU'VE ALSO GOT SUPER BAD LUCK, TOO.

JUST WHAT I SAID?

Exactly that

...I'm sorry.

blabbed a lot

EH?!

THERE'VE BEEN RUMORS UP AND DOWN THE GRAPEVINE THAT A WOMAN THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAS BEEN HANGING AROUND THE SHOP!

OH COME NOW!

?

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

OH, THAT REMINDS ME! I HEAR YOUR MOTHER'S VISITING!

HUH?

OH, AND SHE DOESN'T MIND AT ALL THAT YOU'RE A FORMER HOST, EITHER!

MY GIRL'S TOTALLY GUNG-HO FOR THE WHOLE THING, TOO! SHE REALLY WANTS TO HELP OUT!

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS PLACE COULD USE A WOMAN'S TOUCH!

What is this?

...I'M SORRY?

IT'S PERFECT TIMING IF SHE *IS* HERE!

THIS IS MY NIECE! CHAT WITH YOUR MOTHER ABOUT HER, OKAY?

UH.. NO...

I'M PRETTY SURE SHE JUST SAID THAT TO GET HER POINT ACROSS...

HOLD THE PHONE! DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT?!

SAYING WE NEED A WOMAN'S TOUCH WITH ME RIGHT HERE?!

EH...? WAI...

SHE'S SUPER CUTE! A REAL CATCH!

I'LL BRING HER BY THE SHOP SOON!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT JUST NOW

AH-- WAIT, OO-TOMO-SA...!

Okay, I've got to go shopping for dinner!

YOUR MOTHER MUST BE ON PINS AND NEEDLES WAITING FOR YOU TO BRING HOME A BRIDE!

I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE HER ONCE YOU MEET HER!

THIS IS ONE OF *THOSE THINGS*... ISN'T IT?

W...ait... this is...

...HARU?

I'M BACK.

Wel- wel- wel- w-wel- come back!

I RAN NTO MI-KIKO AT SCHOOL.

YOU'RE BACK PRETTY EARLY TODAY!

AND SHE GAVE ME A RIDE IN HER CAR.

GYAA!!

WELL HARUKO-SAN'S AT HOME DO-ING WORK!

I SEE!

Today's snack is savory carrot cake!

HEY! LET'S HAVE SNACK TIME, JUST THE TWO OF US, REN!!

IKU! YOU'RE IN CHARGE!

WHERE'S HARUKO?

swiff

swiff

MY DOGS THOUGHT OF HIM AS THEIR OWN PUP, SO IT WAS A NIGHTMARE TRYING TO SEPARATE THEM.

THAT BOY'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD WITH DOGS...

BUT A LOT HAPPENED, AND NOW REN IS CARING FOR HIM.

IT SEEMS HE USED TO BELONG TO AN ELDERLY OWNER.

THIS GUY'S PRETTY OBEDIENT FOR A SMALL DOG

HASN'T BARKED ONCE...

...SO YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TAKE REN AWAY?

WELL, UNFORTUNATELY

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL HAVE AN EASIER TIME THIS TIME AROUND

IF REN WANTS TO GO, THEN I WON'T STAND IN HIS WAY

OH YES, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T THINK I'VE HEARD HIM BARK.

TANUKI?

THOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE REN HAS GIVEN HIM ANY SORT OF TRAINING.

C'MON, TANUKI. REN'S PROBABLY WITH ANIKI NOW.

?

AH... I THINK REN'S BACK...

scratch scratch

IT'D BE BETTER FOR BREAKFAST THAN AN AFTERNOON SNACK...

WELL GOOD, THEN!

EVERYTHING YOU LIKE TENDS TO BE POPULAR WITH THE CUSTOMERS, AFTER ALL.

GOT IT. I'LL TRY SUGGESTING IT TO THE REGULARS WHO COME IN BEFORE LUNCH.

IT'S A SALTY CAKE. NO GOOD?

RIGHT?

...IT'S NOT SWEET.

NO, IT'S TASTY...

Every now and then...

I realize... that this is an exceedingly attractive man...

IT'S CAUSE I USUALLY ONLY SEE HIM WITH A GOOFY SMILE ON HIS FACE.

Maybe I should serve a chicken pie on the morning menu?

Ah' ow ow ow!

I forgot.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YES-TERDAY

WHA-?!

HARU WAS JUST POSSESSED BY AN EVIL AURA.

It was all black around him

SORRY...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

You realize you're bleeding, Aniki?

BUT...I THINK HE'S PROBABLY OKAY...NOW.

REN?

IF YOU'RE HOME, YOU NEED TO TAKE TANUKI FOR A WALK

AKI?

I'M STARV-ING. GIMME SOME FOOD

We're not even open here yet!

IF YOU'RE GONNA COME BY FOR FOOD EVERY DAY, YOU MAY AS WELL JUST COME BACK HOME!

GEEZ, YOU...

Peek

YOUR MOM'S STILL GONNA BE AROUND FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?

NO WAY!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER!

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PICNIC FOR ME EITHER!

I want some MEAT!

blab blab

Weeell you see, RenRen's been getting monopolized lately by his mother, so our man here is just feeling all his stress build up...!

THAT DOES IT, IKU! NO BREAKS FOR YOU AT ALL TODAY!

OOH, WHAT'S GOING ON??

WHY IS MY DEAR BROTHER IN A MOOD??

SO MEAN!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR GOSSIPING ABOUT MY PRIVATE LIFE!

NOW GET TO WORK!

...NO WAY IN HELL.

YOU DON'T INTEND TO GIVE HIM UP, DO YOU?

ABOUT HOW YOUR MOM'S WANTING TO TAKE REN BACK TO SWITZERLAND WITH HER?

I HEARD FROM SHIMA.

...ARE YOU IN SUCH A BAD MOOD...?

THEN WHY ON EARTH...

...THEN WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?

IN FACT, HE SAID HE'S *NOT* GOING.

WELL, NO.

HAS REN SAID HE WANTS TO?

?

HEY!!

THEY'VE BEEN GETTING ALL COZY, JUST THE TWO OF THEM, LEAVING ME OUT IN THE COLD ALONE!

WELL DESPITE SAYING HE WASN'T GOING TO GO, HE'S BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD THESE PAST FEW DAYS HERE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON HERE??

WELL??

UGH, THIS KIND OF STUPID IDIOCY IS EXACTLY WHY I LEFT IN THE FIRST PLACE, ARGH!!

I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO YOU BITCH AND MOAN

WELL WHAT DOES IT MATTER HOW I FEEL ON THE ISSUE...?

IF REN WANTS TO GO WITH HARUKO-SAN, THEN I CAN'T STOP HIM!

This is...

UGH, ARE YOU AN *IDIOT*?

CONVINCING YOURSELF THAT REN WILL CHOOSE HER OVER YOU.

WELL HE AND HARUKO-SAN ACT A LOT MORE LIKE PARENT AND CHILD THAN SHE AND I DO!

GEEZ, ARE YOU EVEN BEING SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

...ough to make me feel really sorry for Ren...

Wow...

I'm getting this crazy feeling like I've experienced this before...

I WAS JUST TALKING TO HARUKO.

AND SHE WAS SAYING THAT TANUKI'S PROBABLY CLOSER TO A GERMAN SPITZ THAN A POMERANIAN.

...REN.

I'M SORRY, BUT--

HARU.

HEY.

YOU'RE HUNGRY, HUH? I'LL GET DINNER STARTED.

HE PROBABLY DOES LOVE YOU, SEEING AS YOU'RE THE MOST ATTACHED TO HIM.

BUT...ONLY SO LONG AS YOU STAY BY HIS SIDE, NEVER LEAVING HIS TERRITORY.

OKAY.

.....?

I'VE GOT TO GET STARTED ON DINNER.

WE CAN TALK LATER.

HARU FINDS THE HALF-ASSED RELATIONSHIP YOU TWO HAVE RIGHT NOW COMFORTABLE.

AND THAT'S HOW HE UNCONSCIOUSLY TESTS YOUR LOVE FOR HIM.

HARUKO?

IF YOU STAY WITH HIM LIKE THIS.

YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE

NEITHER ONE OF YOU.

HE'S GOTTEN CAUGHT UP IN YOUR LOVE... AND NOW HE'S DROWNING IN IT.

WHAT A FOOLISH CHILD!

HARU-KO?!

YOU *KNOW* ABOUT --?!

GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO LIVE IN A CROWDED CITY LIKE TOKYO WHEN YOU HATE OTHER PEOPLE?

AND TOGETHER WITH HARU, WITHOUT A SINGLE COMPLAINT?

DID YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I WOULDN'T REALIZE?

AND THEN THERE WAS THAT E-MAIL!

blush

AH...!

NO, JUST...

MEET HIM FACE TO FACE, AND I'D TELL HIM HOW I FELT--THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH. IT WAS ***SUPPOSED*** TO BE ENOUGH!

I NEVER THOUGHT... I'D COME TO FEEL LIKE THIS...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY LIVE WITH HARU.

I WOULD JUST GO TO JAPAN,

BUT THE TWO OF YOU RETURNED TO JAPAN TOGETHER.

TO SCRAPE OUT A LIVING IN THIS CITY WHERE YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SKY PROPERLY.

HE HAD AKI AND SHIMA, AFTER ALL.

AND THEN... I THOUGHT HE'D GO BACK TO JAPAN STRAIGHT AWAY.

PLUS YOU ***WEREN'T*** THERE.

WHEN YOU CAME RUNNING BACK TO CANADA ALONE THAT TIME, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

GOOD GRIEF,

I DIDN'T THINK HARU WOULD COME AFTER ME.

...SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU...

I JUST... WANTED TO GRANT HARU HIS WISH.

That's right...

"SOMEDAY, I WANT TO LIVE WITH ALL MY BROTHERS AS A FAMILY."

That was supposed to be enough for me...

HARUKO FOUND OUT.

HARU...

I'M SORRY

SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.

HARUKO PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE ME SNIFFING AROUND HER ONLY SON, HUH...

About you know, THAT stuff?

All of the stuff I did to you?

F--FOUND OUT?!

MY MOM DID?!

BUT--ANYONE COULD TELL JUST BY LOOKING!

EH...?

DON'T SAY "THAT'S ALL"!!

WERE YOU ACTUALLY TRYING TO *HIDE* IT ..?

WAIT,

Stupidly shocked

.....HUH?

Forget it.

YEAH...

WAIT... HUH?

YOUR FEELINGS...?

ABOUT HOW YOU LOVE ME?

THAT'S ALL?

...YOU WERE TALKING A LOT WITH HARUKO-SAN TODAY...

SHE WAS JUST TUTORING ME

I NEVER GET TO HAVE HER TEACH ME ANYMORE.

...OH.

WELL...

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE AROUND HER EVEN MORE, THEN...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE REST OF THAT SENTENCE!

REN?

*WHAT IS **WRONG** WITH YOU?!*

I TOLD YOU ALREADY! I'M NOT GOING TO SWITZERLAND!

OR WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GO? SO I STOP ANNOYING YOU?!

REN?!

SORRY.

MY BAD
IT WAS MEAN
OF ME TO ASK
THAT OF YOU

I'M SORRY
I SAID SOME-
THING THAT
FELT LIKE I
WAS TEST-
ING YOU

I GUESS
I GOT KIND
OF JEALOUS

JUST
YOU AND
HARUKO-
SAN ARE
SO CLOSE

HM?

HARUKO IS

I KNOW.

AH...WHEN I LIVED TOGETHER WITH HER BEFORE...

SO ROB AND FUMIE WATCHED YOU FOR MOST OF THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.

THAT SHE'D ONLY JUST GOTTEN HER WORK WRITING STARTED AND HARDLY HAD ANY TIME TO SLEEP.

LIKE, SITTING AT THE DINNER TABLE TOGETHER,

TEACHING ME ABOUT THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND,

READING TO ME UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP

STAYING BY MY SIDE WHEN I'M SICK...

SHE'S JUST DOING TO ME...

...ALL OF THE THINGS SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO DO WITH YOU...

"YUKON QUEST"

YOU AND HARUKO TOOK PART IN AN ALASKAN DOG SLED RACE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, DIDN'T YOU?

Just thinking about it makes me wanna cry.

We got by with Lepton and Quark as the lead dogs

OH MAN, that race from hell! I thought I was going to DIE!

We were broke so we couldn't really borrow any good dogs and wound up having to forfeit cause we ran out of dog chow halfway through!

FAIRBANKS

GOAL

YUKON QUEST

WHITEHORSE

START

UNITED STATES

CANADA

THE YUKON QUEST COURSE IS 1600 KM LONG IN TOTAL AND TAKES MORE THAN 10 DAYS TO COMPLETE.

IT'S THE MOST STRENUOUS DOG SLED RACE IN THE WORLD.

HARUKO HATED THAT SHE NEVER GOT TO FINISH IT.

WELL IT WAS FUTILE FROM THE BEGINNING!

It got down to minus 30"

SHE WAS CRAZY FOR TAKING A CHILD ON A TRIP LIKE THAT!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

SHE JUST DID IT WITH ME BECAUSE SHE NEVER GOT TO DO IT WITH YOU

THOUGH I'M A LITTLE SHOCKED WE WON, MYSELF

I ENTERED THE RACE WITH HER, THOUGH.

OUR FIRST NEW YEARS TOGETHER AFTER SHE ADOPTED ME

AND WE WON.

YOU TWO KEEP SURPRISING ME!

HARUKO HAS PROBABLY REALIZED HOW LONELY SHE IS

AFTER LOSING BOTH OF HER "SONS" NOW

I WANT TO HELP HER, IF IT'S IN MY POWER TO

BUT I'LL NEVER BE THE REAL THING

I CAN'T TAKE THE PLACE OF HER REAL SON.

YOU, HARU.

REN...

YOU AND HARUKO-SAN ARE *FAMILY*, THROUGH AND THROUGH.

DON'T SAY SAD THINGS LIKE THAT YOU AREN'T "REAL".

"Family" is the most important thing in Haru's eyes.

...YEAH, I GUESS WE ARE.

.....

And now he's frantically working to fill that hole.

The shock of losing the place of comfort that he'd finally obtained...

...opened up a huge hole inside of Haru.

HMM?

HARU...

If he does so now,

GOOD NIGHT.

...pro-bably.

...then I can go back to being just the little brother he's wishing for.

...REN?

AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D SAY SO SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

...OKAY?

.....?

...THEN TELL ME, OKAY?

...IF YOU COME TO REALIZE THAT YOU CAN ONLY SEE ME AS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...

HE'S ALL HEALED UP, SO HE'S BACK HOME NOW, IT SEEMS.

SAID HE'LL TAKE BACK TANUKI, SINCE HE'D ASKED YOU TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

OKAY-- OH!

YES.

?

IT'S FROM ONODERA-SAN

THE OLD LANDLORD.

OH, THAT OLD MAN.

HE'S BACK, SO I'LL PUT HIM ON THE PHONE NOW.

CAN'T I JUST GIVE HIM SOME SCRAPS?

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK..

AND THE DOG FOOD...

I'LL BUY SOME MORE WHEN IT'S ALL GONE.

NO--HUMAN FOOD ISN'T GOOD FOR HIM, APPARENTLY.

STILL...TO THINK HE WAS A DOG ALL A-LONG AND NOT ACTUALLY A TANUKI...

WELL HIS NAME IS TANUKI.

SO HE'S A TANUKI.

You're pretty loose, huh

HERE'S HIS LEASH.

AND HIS FOOD BOWL

YOU'VE GOT HIM LOOKING PRETTY NICE...

HE WAS ALL BLACK THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, I WAS SURE HE WAS A TA-NUKI .!

OH, RIGHT.

HE'S A LONG-HAIR, SO HE'LL NEED TO BE BRUSHED NOW AND THEN.

...DAMN, THIS IS DEFINITE-LY GONNA BE A LOT OF WORK.

WHAT'S THIS?

DID HE TELL YOU TO GIVE HIM BACK, THEN?

...I CAN'T.

I PROMISED HARU WE'D ONLY LOOK AFTER HIM UNTIL YOU RECOVERED.

HE SEEMS FOND OF YOU...

AND YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM.

DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER FOR YOU TO KEEP HIM AROUND HERE?

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY MORE

BUT I'M ALREADY CAUSING PROBLEMS.

HE'D NEVER ASK THAT

OH--

MAYBE TAKING HIM OUT FOR WALKS WILL BE GOOD REHAB FOR ME, THEN...

I'D ALWAYS PLANNED TO LOOK AFTER HIM, SO IT'S NO SKIN OFF MY BACK...

...WELL,

THIS DOG IS GONNA BE REALLY ANNOYING.

He's an inside dog, so maybe keep it to tossing the ball around the yard?

If you do go outside, then you should carry him in your arms til you get to the park

TANUKI HATES WALKS.

He won't go outside unless you force him.

OKAY, TAKE GOOD CARE OF TANUKI.

WILL DO.

I'M GO-ING NOW.

TELL YOUR BIG BROTHER TO DROP BY NOW AND THEN.

I WILL.

scramble

scramble

scramble

TANUKI.

DOESN'T THAT SOUND NICE? YOU'LL GET LOTS OF ATTENTION.

YOU'RE JIISAN'S DOG A-GAIN NOW, OKAY?

JUMP

realize

RATTLE

SEE YOU.

RATTLE

look around

SFX: BARKING

EH?!

scratch

scratch

SFX: BARKING

.....?

ROOOOW...

...GO ON AND TAKE HIM WITH YOU, THEN.

JIISAN...

TANU-KI...?

ROOOOOW...

That's the first time I've ever heard him bark.

EVEN SOMETHING THIS SCRAWNY KNOW HOW TO MAKE HIS DE-SIRES KNOWN.

SO WHY NOT STOP WALKIN' ON EGGSHELLS AROUND THAT BROTHER OF YOURS AND LET HIM KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?

SFX: BARKING

...I'LL COME BY AGAIN.

I'LL BRING SOME SWEET BEAN TREATS NEXT TIME.

JIISAN.

HM?

...ALL RIGHT.

I'LL TRY ASKING HARU.

GOOD, THEN!

Here, his food and leash

GET THE THREE-FLAVOR KIND!

REN!!

GREAT TIMING.

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO PICK YOU UP.

YOU WENT TO SEE OLD MAN ONODERA, RIGHT?

...HARU,

ABOUT TANUKI...

YEAH YEAH, I GET IT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE ACTUALLY GONNA GIVE HIM BACK AFTER HE'S LIVED WITH US FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS... THAT'S COLD!

...BUT WE WERE JUST WATCHING HIM FOR JIISAN...

WELL SURE, MAYBE AT FIRST!

SO...

BUT TANUKI'S PART OF OUR FAMILY NOW!

RIGHT, TANUKI??

AKI LIKES TO SAY I'M THICK-HEADED

...YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY SLOW IN RE-ALIZING STUFF

THOUGH I KNOW I SHOULD'VE LEARNED MY LESSON BY NOW, AFTER RUNNING YOU OFF ONCE ALREADY

SO...WE CAN KEEP HIM...?

WHAT YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE WE WENT TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT!

.....?

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT EXACTLY HAVEN'T I MADE CLEAR?

SO?

I KNOW YOU'RE PISSED AT ME FOR TREATING YOU LIKE A CHILD.

BUT YOU CAN'T EXACTLY BLAME ME FOR WORRYING, CAN YOU?

AND THE WAY I WANT TO DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS FOR YOU AS WELL...

...WHEN YOU TRY TO TELL ME YOU DON'T NEED THOSE KINDS OF THINGS FROM ME...

BUT THEN THERE WAS WHAT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT...

HARU...!

I CAN'T ***BELIEVE*** YOU COULD SAY THAT KIND OF THING...

WHAT PART OF ME ARE YOU LOOKING AT, EXACTLY?

THAT'S NOT

WHAT AREN'T YOU SURE OF?

WHAT DO YOU ***WANT*** FROM ME?

HARU!

THEY'RE NOT HERE!

HARUKO-SAN ALREADY LEFT NOTICE THAT SHE'D BE OUT LATE TONIGHT!

SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM, IS THERE?

AND AKI AND SHIMA ARE OFF VISITING THE SAGAMIS!

COME ON!

WE CAN'T HAVE A CONVERSATION OUTSIDE!

...HARU!

AND SHIMA, TOO!

BUT-- HARUKO'S INSIDE, ISN'T SHE?!

...HARU.

SO?

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO ME?

HERE, SIT DOWN!

SFX: FWUMP!

REEEEN...

...W-WELL, YOU'RE JUST AS BAD!

THERE'S LOTS OF THINGS YOU NEVER TELL ME!

AND THEN YOU GET ANGRY WHEN I TALK TO HARUKO!

YEAH, I'M SORRY.

BUT I ALREADY APOLOGIZED FOR THAT...?

AND YOU IGNORE ME WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY, TOO.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I *REALLY* HATE THAT!

ALL RIGHT. I WON'T DO THAT ANYMORE, THEN.

.....

ANYTHING ELSE?

REN.

AT THE SHOP...

IF YOU'RE MAD AT ME, THEN SAY SO!

YOU'RE SO HARD TO READ!

IT HURTS EVEN MORE WHEN YOU TRY TO HIDE IT WITH A SMILE!

I'M SORRY. I'LL STOP DOING THAT AS WELL.

I HATED... SEEING THEM KISS YOU TOO.

SOMETIMES CUSTOMERS FROM YOUR OLD JOB DROP BY, RIGHT?

SIGH

KIYOKA TOLD ME.

SHE SAID IT WAS A POTENTIAL MARRIAGE PARTNER.

A CUSTOMER GAVE YOU A PICTURE OF A WOMAN THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T THEY?

ALSO...

AND ALSO...

THERE'S *MORE?!*

...ARE YOU GOING TO SEE HER?

HELL NO!!

I WON'T SEE HER!

Argh... geez...!

This guy is just...

SO...!!

I'M STAYING BY YOUR SIDE.

R--REN?

Uwah...

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: I'M *NOT* GOING TO SWITZERLAND.

WHA-- HARU?!

KISS

Mm...

Ha-ah

SORRY, REN...

I'M AT MY LIMIT...

JUST... LET ME TOUCH YOU A LITTLE?

WHAT ARE... YOU...?

REN... HOLD THIS?

.....?

YEAH,

THERE'S A GOOD BOY ..

suckle

OOH, WAS THAT A SWEET SPOT...?

SOME-ONE'S DIRTY...

Hya-

AH

Mm...

ah...!

YEAH YEAH...

THEN YOU WANNA DO SOMETHIN' EVEN ***MORE*** FUN WITH THIS DIRTY OLD MAN?

suckle

YOU'RE... THE DIRTY ONE..!

.....!!

HAA

And all over my body, too...

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN BY 'MORE FUN'...?

HMM? WELL, YOU'RE A NEWBIE, SO I'LL TAKE IT SLOW.

WE'LL JUST DO THINGS THAT MAKE US FEEL GOOD TOGETHER.

...SO YOU'LL FEEL GOOD TOO?

YUP.

I'LL FEEL *AMAZING.*

My face... feels hot.

...YOU'RE STILL KIND OF PUNY HERE, HUH.

so cute

DON'T LOOK!

WA!--

DON'T--!

...!

BESIDES, IF I DON'T LOOK...THEN I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU PROPERLY.

NOW YOU FREAK OUT?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

NONONO, SOMEHOW I THINK THAT WOULD BE A VERY VERY BAD IDEA.

...YEAH.

HMM? IT FELT GOOD, DIDN'T IT?

WANT ANOTHER?

smooch

...NO, I'LL DO IT THIS TIME.

CRAP...

I SWAL-LOWED ..

HARU ..

WELL, IT'S HIS, SO IT'S FINE...

HUH?

THIS TIME I'LL DO IT TO YOU.

BUT WHY?

WHY IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO DO IT AND NOT FOR ME...?

BECAUSE IT JUST IS!

IF I GET THAT KIND OF VISUAL STUCK INSIDE MY HEAD, MY DELUSIONS ARE JUST GONNA START ESCALATING, AND— NOOONONONONO!!

THEN... CAN I AT LEAST TOUCH YOU...?

...I'D VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THAT.

Your dick is poking me in the leg, so

REN...?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO TINY, EVER SINCE YOU WERE A KID...

GETTING TO DO THIS KIND OF THIS WITH YOU.

GOTTA SAY I'M OVERWHELMED THOUGH.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT, HONEST!

YEAH, I GUESS I'M JUST A CHILD!!

I CAN'T POSSIBLY COMPARE WITH YOU!

I STEPPED ON A LAND MINE!

AH!!

...HM? WHAT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

WELL COME ON, NOW, LET'S BE REASONABLE!

AS BIG AS YOU?

BUT--YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR GROWTH SPURT! YOU'LL GET BIGGER IN NO TIME AT ALL!

CALM DOWN!

DING-DONG!

While our lovey-dovey relationship has advanced a step and is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed...

...in the span of a single moment, it felt like it regressed another hundred paces?!

How is it that...

I'M STARVING HERE!

OPEN THE DOOR!

HEY, HARU!

SUPER LOVERS #11 END

Scans: amyused Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: teri Typesetting: fencer_x

SUPER LOVERS #12

Ever since joining that club, he never failed to win over female customers with his non-Japanese looks and his feminist morals.

The Kaidou Haru that I know...

...was the most profitable and most popular host at his club.

But while he was kind to all...he was also cold to everyone.

As "Natsu," he refused to allow himself to belong to anyone else...

...like an exquisite jewel.

SUPER LOVERS
#12

HARU-SAN! HOW ABOUT LUNCH TO--

GOOOOD MORNING!!

OH--NO, HE GAVE ME PERMISSION TO WATCH THIS...

OOH, SO RENREN FINALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT PORNO?

...WOW, RENREN SURE CAN BE COOL SOMETIMES

THEN, YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE DVD?

FAR FROM IT--IT WAS IN MY TOP 3 ALL-TIME FAVORITES!

THEN WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?!

So annoying!!!

I want to leave. Right this instant.

I...REALLY DON'T WANT TO COME IN THERE, HONESTLY...

WHAT'S WRONG?

SNIFFLE

IKU...

I THINK I'M DONE FOR...

I CAN'T GET IT UP ANYMORE.

.....WHAT?

Now, several years later...

IN MY ALL-TIME TOP-3 BEST PORNOS I OWN! AND *I CAN'T GET IT UP WHEN I WATCH IT NOW!!*

IT WAS MY FAVORITE PORNO...!!

DON'T YOU THINK I MUST BE ON MY LAST LEGS HERE?!

I'M ONLY 23, DAMMIT!!

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY VERY WRONG HERE!

I'm reminded daily that the man I once looked up to is nowhere to be found.

REN.

HMM, WELL...

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SEE WELL WITH HOW CLOUDED MY EYES ARE WITH TEARS AT THE MOMENT...

MORNIN'.

JULIZEN.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. DID YOU NOT SLEEP WELL...?

WELL, WE'VE GOT TESTS NEXT WEEK.

MY ROOMMATE'S BEEN GRIPING AT ME TO START MY STUDYING...

THERE'S ONLY SO MANY TIMES I CAN HEAD TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE FOR A BREAK.

I'M NEVER GONNA FIND SOME ALONE TIME LIVING IN THE DORMS LIKE I AM, SO THE STRESS JUST KEEPS ON BUILDING UP...

.....

OH YEAH...SO HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, JUU-ZEN? AND WHERE?

HUH?

TAKE CARE OF MYSELF... HOW?

DON'T YOU RE-MEMEBER WHAT THE SCHOOL NURSE SAID?

IF YOU DON'T RE-LEASE WHEN IT GETS ALL PENT UP IN-SIDE, THEN IT'S BAD FOR--

WAH!!

OH DEAR!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER!

SIGH

I don't think I can get it up for anyone but Ren...

UGH, IT'S NO USE!

I'LL BE GLAD TO ACCOMPANY YOU! ♡

REN! YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING TOO HARD!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T HAVE--

?

?

LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO SEE THE NURSE!

OR HOW ABOUT WE GO SEE SOME GIRLS, SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE??

PLEASE CHEER UP!

apathetic

DAMN, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ONE OF THOSE GUYS DATING HIS *RIGHT HAND* AT MY AGE...

...I'm sorry, I don't think I can be of any assistance here...

...WHAT DID THIS GUY JUST CASUALLY BLURT OUT?!

WAIT, HE'S ABANDON-ING ME?!

保健室
Health Care Room

HUM?

YOU TWO AGAIN?

AND SO NOISY FIRST THING IN THE MORNING

I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDS TO KNOW BEFORE!

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS JERK OFF WHEN HE GETS HORNY! EVEN MONKEYS KNOW HOW TO DO THAT!

YOU'RE WAY TOO VAGUE!

PLEASE GIVE THIS POOR KID PROPER SEX ED!

I--I CAN'T DO IT!

HUH?!

WELL THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

SO WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM THEN?

YES! THAT! THERE!

I JUST ASKED JUUZEN..

...HOW HE DOES IT.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S BAD FOR YOUR BODY IF YOU HOLD IT IN, REMEMBER?

HUH? SO YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT?

I'M DOING IT JUST FINE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WAH!!

AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT.

YOU DON'T SEEM THE TYPE TO GET ALL EM-BARRASSED BY THIS KIND OF TOPIC EITHER, YOU KNOW.

HOW NARROW-MINDED.

DON'T ASK THAT KINDA THING RIGHT OUTTA THE GATE!

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU'RE S'PPOSED TO BE!!

?

...YOUR CLASSMATES MUST REALLY BE FOND OF YOU.

Everyone in the class has agreed not to "talk dirty in front of you."

I'M BEGGING YOU! PLEASE STAY OUR PURE LITTLE FAIRY!

THIS IS BAD!..

I'M SURE YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW THE OTHERS ARE HANDLING THEMSELVES IN A BACHELOR PAD LIKE THAT.

WAIT, KAIDOU-- DON'T YOU HAVE THREE BROTHERS?

HARU AND I ARE IN THE SAME ROOM WHEN WE SLEEP TOGETHER.

IN THE SAME *BED* EVEN. AND YET I STILL CAN'T TELL

...I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT AT ALL.

BUT IT'S NOT FAIR FOR ME TO HAVE *HIM* GET *ME* OFF ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?

...KAIDOU.

THAT'S THE ENTIRE REASON I ASKED JUU-ZEN HOW HE DOES IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WHAT DOES
MATTER
YOU WANT
HEAR ANY
THING ABOUT
THAT GOT IT

WOULD YOU TWO PLEASE JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE?

YOU'RE NOT TO DISCUSS THAT IN FRONT OF ANYONE ELSE IN THE FUTURE UNDERSTAND?

RIGHT? RIGHT?? YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?!

THEN WHO SHOULD I CONSULT?

THAT PERVY BIG BROTHER OF YOURS, OF COURSE!!

.....

!!?

REN

WE DIDN'T GET TO DO ANYTHING BE-FORE SINCE HARUKO IN-TERRUPTED

I WANT TO DO IT TO YOU, TOO

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOT THAT I DON'T AP-PRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT I'M TIRED

I HEARD IT'S BAD FOR YOUR BODY IF YOU RESTRAIN YOURSELF

I'LL HANDLE IT MYSELF, SO YOU GO BACK TO SLEEP

Hey. don't take off my clothes

NOT WANT TO DO IT?

GET TO SLEEP!

Haruya?!

He'd adorable, totally sexy, and hits all of my weak spots...

I now see that this guy is the REAL demon...

Ah... Haruko-san...

I apolo gize for calling you a demon

And I know he would never want that from me.

AKI.

HARUKO-SAN'S SUPPOSED TO BE HOME EARLY TODAY.

IF YOU'RE HERE, THEN I'LL NEED TO TELL HARU FOR DINNER.

OH, I WON'T NEED DINNER.

I JUST DROPPED BY TO PICK UP A REPORT AND SOME OTHER THINGS THAT I NEEDED.

HUH? ISN'T IT EARLY FOR YOU TO BE HOME. ?

WE HAVE TESTS SOON.

OH YEAH.

YOUR SCHOOL'S ON A THREE-TERM SCHEDULE.

HEY THERE.

SHIMA, DID YOU SET UP THE APPOINTMENT FOR ANKI'S CHECK-UP AND COUNSELING SESSION?

YES, I DID.

YOU THINK HE'LL GO ..?

IT'S A WEEKDAY. DOESN'T HE HAVE THE CAFE?

WHY NOT JUST COME BACK HOME INSTEAD OF GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY LIKE THIS. .?

?

IT'S A LONG STORY.

REN, WELCOME HOME.

JUST HAVE HIM CLOSE THE CAFE AND BE SURE HE GOES.

HE MADE UP SOME STUPID EXCUSE AND SKIPPED OUT ON IT LAST YEAR, AFTER ALL.

True

?

IS HARU SICK?

SORRY, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO REALLY ASK HARU MUCH ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.

WOULD YOU MIND REMINDING HIM ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT AS WELL, THOUGH?

NAH, IT'S FINE. IF HE'S TO THE POINT WHERE HE'S MOSTLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, THEN THAT'S ALL FOR THE BEST

I'M SURE HE'LL GO IF YOU'RE THE ONE TO TELL HIM TO.

HE'S FINE.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG NOW

AH...!

HEY, YOU'VE GOT YOUR EXAMS!

I'LL GO ALONG WITH HIM.

GOT IT

BESIDES, HE'S SELF-EMPLOYED.

HE COULD STAND TO TAKE ONE DAY OFF TO GET HIS HEALTH CHECKED.

THOUGH HE'S ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY HEALTHY.

HE JUST WASN'T DOING TOO WELL AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

NOW HE GOES IN FOR AN ANNUAL CHECK-UP, JUST IN CASE.

¡NOM!
¡NOM!
¡NOM!

I DON'T MIND GOING WITH HIM.

A CHECK-UP FOR HARU...?

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

AND IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE THAT ACCIDENT

HE'S NOT A CHILD

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF--

YOU...

SFX: BAM!

AKI!

YOU CAN ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEE HOW HE WAS BACK THEN!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BAD OFF HE WAS BEFORE!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHAPE HE WAS IN WHEN THEY HAULED HIM INTO THE HOSPITAL?!

HE WAS COVERED IN BLOOD, AND HIS BRAIN WAS SWOLLEN UP LIKE A BALOON FROM THE IMPACT!

EVEN WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS A ***MONTH*** LATER, HE COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER HIS OWN NAME FOR A WHILE!

AND THEN HE STARTED HURTING HIMSELF, COMPLAINING THAT HE COULDN'T GET ANY SLEEP!

I WON
I WON

AKI!

SHUT UP!!

THIS LADY HAS NO CLUE HOW ANIKI WAS AFTER THE ACCIDENT!

DECIDING HE'D JUST DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND GOING AWOL...

HE ONLY REALLY REMEMBERED WHO ABOUT REN WHEN REN CAME TO SEE HIM *HIMSELF!*

I WON! I WON! I WON!

SO WHY--

WHY'D YOU GO AND ABANDON HIM?!

I WON'T LET YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE ACCIDENT!

THAT LAWYER LADY HAD TO HAVE TOLD YOU!

AKI!!

REN! YOU LITTLE--

DON'T YELL AT HARUKO ANYMORE!

REN...?

I WAS THE REASON SHE COULDN'T BE WITH HARU!

HUH?!

IT'S NOT HER FAULT

SHE'S NOT IN THE WRONG HERE!

SHE COULDN'T COME TO JAPAN BECAUSE I WAS WITH HER THEN!

REN...?

...HM?

GREAT TIMING!

MIKIKO-SAN'S HERE, SO WHY DON'T WE ALL ..

HUH?

WAIT, IS EVERYONE HERE...?

I WO
I WO

6PX. TURN

REN!

OOPS, DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THE MOOD ?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

REN...?

?

SLAM

?

Oh my

I MEAN, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WOULD'VE BEEN NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO COME TO JAPAN BACK THEN.

BUT WHY?

HER OWN SON MIGHT HAVE DIED!

SHE COULD HAVE JUST BROUGHT REN WITH HER!

AND I'M TELLING YOU SHE COULDN'T HAVE!

BUT WHY?!

...I TOOK REN WITH ME TO THE GROCERY STORE ONCE, BACK WHEN HE WAS JUST BEGINNING TO WARM UP TO ME...

I FIGURED HE WAS PROBABLY BORED, SPENDING ALL HIS TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH NO ONE BUT HARUKO-SAN AND THE DOGS.

ONE STEP INTO SUCH A CROWDED AREA, AND HE STARTED SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!

I WAS FREAKING OUT!

SFX: EEK!!

BARK

SO I PANICKED AND GOT HIM BACK INTO THE CAR FOR US TO LEAVE, AND ON THE WAY HOME, HE THREW HIS GUTS UP IN THE CAR.

FOR THE NEXT 2 OR 3 DAYS, HE REFUSED TO COME NEAR ME OR ANY CARS, THEN.

Hey, calm down

I promise we won't go anywhere!

AND WELL, YOU SEE...

YOU KNOW ..

ANYWAY, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY--IS THAT SHE COULDN'T BRING A KID LIKE THAT TO JAPAN. HELL, SHE COULDN'T HAVE EVEN GOTTEN HIM ON THE PLANE TO BEGIN WITH!

STILL

BESIDES, IF YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF OF HIM, HE WON'T EAT ON HIS OWN, HE'LL GO SLEEP IN THE GARAGE

HE REFUSES TO WEAR HIS SHOES, HE BITES, HE WON'T TAKE A BATH .

THAT'S NO REASON FOR HER TO HAVE *ABANDONED* YOU...

I DO HOPE YOU BOYS DON'T THINK OF ME AS JUST SOME CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE.

MIKIKO-SAN ?

BUT SHE *DIDN'T* ABANDON HIM.

OH?

I'M SURE YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHO WAS *ACTUALLY* PULLING THE STRINGS NOW, YES?

BUT I'LL REMIND YOU I'M A BUSY WOMAN AND MOST DEFINITELY DID NOT DO THIS OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY OWN HEART.

I SIMPLY FULFILLED THE TERMS ASKED OF ME AS A PART OF MY JOB.

I WAS THE LAWYER IN THE TRIAL HELD FOR THAT ACCIDENT,

AND I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK CARE OF THE BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR PARENTS, TOO.

I WAS THE ONE WHO TRACKED DOWN YOUR ELDEST HERE WHEN HE WENT MISSING,

AND I'VE BEEN HIS GUARANTOR FOR ALL MANNER OF THINGS SINCE

REN...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY LIKE THAT?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAY CURLED UP THERE FOR MUCH LONGER, THEN I WON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO SLEEP TONIGHT.

YOU KNOW THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYING OVER HARU AFTER ALL THIS TIME, RIGHT?

IT'S ALL IN THE PAST, AND IT'S NOTHING YOU SHOULD FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR.

I don't mind the floor.

.....IS THIS OKAY?

...I SEE YOU STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED IN SOME RESPECTS.

.....!

wriggle wriggle wriggle

slide...

BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE.

AND IF YOU'D NEEDED TO, YOU COULD HAVE GONE TO BE BY HIS SIDE WHENEVER YOU WANTED.

B...BUT...

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO ASK HARU TO COME TO CANADA, RIGHT?

I NEVER WOULD HAVE GONE TO SEE HARU.

...WHY DID YOU LET HIM GO?

DUNNO...

I GUESS BECAUSE...

I COULDN'T STOP BEING MYSELF.

I TOLD HIM THAT WHEN HE LEFT CANADA AS A BOY TO COME TO JAPAN.

I CHOSE, INSTEAD OF BEING A MOTHER,

...TO BE ***MYSELF.***

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT

DIDN'T YOU GET LONELY?

I'VE EVEN COME ALL THIS WAY FROM EUROPE JUST FOR YOU.

AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I ***DESPISE*** JAPANESE SUMMERS!

I HAD YOU.

AND WHAT A HANDFUL YOU WERE, TOO!

.....

I WAS REALLY HAPPY BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO LONG

BUT I I'M SORRY

I FELT THE SAME

I KNOW

I'M STARTING TO REGRET LETTING YOU TWO FLY THE NEST

I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I'D REALIZE JUST HOW QUICKLY CHILDREN MATURE AFTER ALL

HARUKO-SAN? REN?

DINNER'S READY!

What's wrong, Ren?

Playing bagworm?

FLAIL

FLAIL

All right, time for grub.

Though I suppose it'll depend on how well you do on your tests...

I'm looking forward to seeing how you do in Japanese.

And just so we're clear, I still haven't given up on convincing you to come back to switzerland with me.

びっくう!!

SFX: JOLT!

She may say that, but as far as Haru's concerned, nothing's changed from before.

And when she isn't around...he sometimes calls her..."Mom."

And I know...

...that he does it without even thinking...

.....

MOM?

...HM?

WELL, HE SAID HE WANTED TO WAIT UNIL YOU GOT BACK...

DON'T LET REN SLEEP THERE

GOOD GRIEF, YOU TWO HAVEN'T MATURED AT ALL

"GOT BACK" FROM WHERE? I WAS JUST HAVING A DRINK WITH MIKIKO IN YOUR BAR.

But I don't own the bar

MM

WELL HE SEEMED LIKE HE WAS HUNG UP ON SOMETHING AND HAD SAID TO YOU

MAYBE HE WAS WORRIED YOU WOULDN'T COME BACK AFTER THAT?

.....

IT'S INTERESTING THAT DESPITE THERE BEING QUITE A FEW PEOPLE AROUND HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO INTEREST IN WAKING

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?

FOR TWO LADIES OF YOUR AGE TO BE OUT DRINKING AT THIS HOUR IS JUST

WELL THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE USUALLY PUT HIM TO BED BY NOW

THE REN I KNOW WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP IN A PLACE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND

AND YET HE HAS NO TROUBLE AT ALL FALLING ASLEEP WHEN HE'S WITH YOU

HUH?

I'm hittin' the sack

SO LIKE I SAID--

YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER.

HAVEN'T MATURED AT ALL.

AFTER ALL, WHO CAN SLEEP COMFORTABLY LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF SOMEONE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN LOVE WITH?

!!?

WHO ASKED YOU?!

I can still remember it clearly.

"WHAT IS IT?"

.....

That tiny child's face, glaring at me in the middle of the night.

I CAN'T TELL IF REN'S JUST THAT UNRUFFLED OR IF YOU REALLY HAVE NO BALLS--BUT EITHER WAY, IT'S A PRETTY FUNNY SIGHT TO SEE.

Haruko-san claims we haven't changed...

...but we weren't like this at first.

Stiff as a board with wariness, he wasn't cute in the least.

up we go

SLUMP

THOUGH HE'S STILL LIKE THAT

This kid's as light as ever huh

Though... ah...

Maybe I'm the only one who hasn't changed...?

SEMESTER TESTING

Per Kaidou Ren

No Unauthorized Personnel Allowed

WHAT IS IT?

CAN I ASK A QUESTION?

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE TAKING MY TEST IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?

BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE COULD TAKE YOU IN!

.....

AH!

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

MAY I ASK MORE QUESTIONS?

THERE'S STILL SOME TIME LEFT BEFORE I BEGIN THE EXAM.

ALL OF THE OTHER TEACHERS HAVE THEIR OWN CLASSES THEY'RE IN CHARGE OF, SO EVERYONE ELSE IS FULL UP.

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH PREPARING A SPECIAL TEST JUST FOR YOU--AS IF THEY COULD SPARE A TEACHER TO WATCH YOU!

...IS WHAT YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT.

SO I GOT STUCK WITH YOU.

I SEE. MY APOLOGIES

IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION FROM BEFORE, THAT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT, OKAY?

I DON'T KNOW A DAMN THING ABOUT HOW TWO GUYS FUCK!

AND DON'T TRY IT OUT BECAUSE YOU'RE CURIOUS!

!

AAAAH CRAP!

...that men can do that together?

WAIT, SO YOU'RE SAYING...

But

HOW??

BUT HOW ON EARTH WOULD THEY DO IT?

ARGH DAMMIT! IF YOU DON'T SHUT THAT TRAP OF YOURS, I'M GONNA START DEDUCTING POINTS, KAIDOU!

...ALL RIGHT.

I'LL JUST GET THE DETAILS AFTER THE EXAM IS OVER.

DON'T RUN AWAY, OKAY?

YOU HAVE A DUTY AS THE HEALTH TEACHER TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

ARE YOU A DEMON ?!?!

SHIT SHIT SHIT, I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE!!

HEY HEY, HARU!

CHECK IT OUT!

ISN'T THIS JUST ADORABLE?

It's a present!

WELL I HEARD IT WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY!

AUH? A SAILOR UNIFORM?

Just what part of you are you ex-pecting to fit into this small-size outfit...?

...I'M NOT WEARING THAT. I'M NOT, OKAY?

SEEE!

I HATE YOU LITTLE MONSTER TO PUT YOUR FOUNDEST PERFECTLY

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SEE HER OUT ?

"PERVERT"

"STO..."

"ARE YOU..."

...ACTUALLY ENJOYING SEEING ME IN THIS KIND OF OUTFIT?

...I'VE GOT THIS FEELING OF DEJA VU NOW.

MY APOLO-GIES. PLEASE GIVE IT TO ME.

AH!

I FEEL LIKE I ALMOST GAVE IN TO AN ALTO-GETHER DIFFER-ENT SDE TO MYSELF!

creak

Just now, a door that shou an't ex st was...

Kiyoka's selection was right on target.

That's more like it.

reassuring himself

Wait, wait, no, I love Ren just the way he always is

I'LL JUST HAVE ONE OF MY GIRLS WEAR IT AT THE BAR ISNTEAD.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S NO BIG DEAL IF YOU DON'T WANT IT.

HUH?!

WE'RE LEAVING IT UP TO YOU.

NIISAN PREFERS THE CURRY REN MAKES, RIGHT?

SO LET HIM MAKE IT HOW HE CHOOSES

WELL, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL, IT'S JUST ..

YOU'RE PUTTING IN A BOILED EGG, TOO?!

EH?! WAIT, WHAT'S THIS?!

AND MOCHI TOO?!

STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING!!

EASY, EASY.

YOU LIKE YOUR CURRY MILD?!

This doesn't even count as curry!

DON'T LIKE IT, DON'T EAT IT.

ALL RIGHT

BUT IT SEEMS WE'LL BE A BIT LONGER HERE. SO WOULD YOU MIND GOING AND KEEPING HIM COMPANY THERE?

I'M SURE NISAN WILL GET OFF WORK SOON.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU'RE ALL SO LOUD!

HARUKO-SAN

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL GETTING THINGS IN ORDER.

AAH, I SEE

HUH?

HARUKO-SAN?

I SEE REN'S LEARNING TO DO THINGS I NEVER TAUGHT HIM NOW

I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT AWKWARD REN WOULD FIND HIMSELF IN THE KITCHEN.

HAHA!

IT'S NOT THAT HARD, AND ONCE I TAUGHT HIM A FEW THINGS, HE TOOK TO IT RATHER WELL!

HE'S NOT TOO BAD IN THE KITCHEN, THAT KID!

I KNOW.

BUT IT'S CLEAR, SEEING THAT... THAT IT ISN'T BECAUSE HE *LIKES* WHATEVER HE'S DOING, NECESSARILY.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF HIM FOR THAT.

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SMART, AND A HARD WORKER ON TOP OF THAT.

HE STILL LOVES HAND-PICKING THE COFFEE BEANS, YOU KNOW?

removes all the unsatisfactory beans

HMM...

OH, BUT--

EVERYTHING I EVER HAD HIM DO...WAS ONLY BECAUSE I WANTED HIM TO DO IT.

STILL...

I THINK HE ENJOYS THAT KIND OF THING.

AN ITALIAN ROAST, JUST HOW YOU LIKE IT.

WE USE A COFFEE MACHINE IN THE SHOP, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO ROAST BY HAND.

YOU TAUGHT HIM THAT, RIGHT?

ONLY BECAUSE HE TOLD ME TO TEACH HIM.

I DON'T THINK HE EVER HATED THE THINGS YOU TAUGHT HIM.

THOUGH IT WAS LESS THE STUDYING HE LIKED AND MORE JUST HAVING YOU TEACH HIM, I THINK.

IT SOUNDS LIKE HE ENJOYED THE SLED RACE, TOO.

THOUGH I'M MORE THAN DONE WITH THAT HELLISH RACE.

YOU SURE DO LACK COLD RESISTANCE FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS RAISED IN CANADA.

I SEE

THE CAKE'S HERE! ♡

HARU-SAAAN! ♡

EH?!

CAN I STAY FOR THE CURRY PARTY TONIGHT??

IT'S NOT A CURRY PARTY! IT'S MY 24TH BIRTHDAY!!

BUT RENREN'S HOMEMADE CURRY IS THE MAIN DISH, RIGHT??

WELL. YES.

REN REN

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR CANDLES ON THE CAKE?

CAN WE PUT ON ALL 24?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

THE CAKE WILL COLLAPSE AND GO TO WASTE IF YOU PUT ON ALL 24!

DON'T I GET A SAY?

WAIT JUST A DAMN MINUTE--HARUKO-SAN?

HARUKO-SAAAN!!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TEACHING THIS POOR KID?!

God got so pissed off at Orihime and Ikkaku for flirting so much they stopped working entirely that he decided to make it so that they could only meet once a year, right?

What a cutie!

NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING YOU.

REEEEN!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

BOO

WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT SAY HORRIBLE THINGS ON MY BIRTHDAY?!

IF YOU ALL PISS ME OFF ANY MORE, THEN I'LL DO THE SAME AND TAKE REN WITH ME.

GOD

SLAP

HUH?!

THIS ONE IS MINE.

HANG IT UP.

I--I'LL SEE IF THERE'S A GOOD RECIPE ONLINE...

I GOT IT...

O--OKAY...

DON'T LAUGH AT ME!

Pfft! Hurts!

I want to try rice pudding
-Ren

No matter
how small
a matter it
may be...
...so long
as I can be
of some use
to him...
...that that
is itself is
a kind of
happiness.

YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SWITZER-LAND...?

HUH?

HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT?

THAT REMINDS ME, I HEARD YOU WERE TESTING ALONE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE...?

IT'S NOT SO BAD

THE PROCTOR IS THE HEALTH TEACHER TOO, SO IT'S A NICE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS. I'M LEARNING A LOT

QUESTIONS?

REGARDLESS OF HOW YOUR GRADES TURN OUT, YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON COMING BACK WITH ME, RIGHT?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

NOPE.

THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN ASKING.

I BOUGHT A TICKET FOR A FLIGHT THAT LEAVES TODAY.

I NEED TO BE GETTING BACK OR IT COULD AFFECT MY RESEARCH.

BUT...MY EXAMS AREN'T OVER YET

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HUH?

About how men have sex together.

THERE'S STILL A LOT I'M NOT CLEAR ON, BUT...

I'LL BE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE AGAIN TODAY.

SIGH

I THINK I'LL ASK HIM FOR DETAILS.

I'VE LEARNED THAT IT'S BEST TO JUST DIVE IN AND GET SOME EXPERIENCE UNDER MY BELT.

YOU...

?

IF I DON'T TAKE MY EXAMS, I WON'T QUALIFY FOR MY DIPLOMA.

THAT'S IT! YOU'RE GROUNDED FROM SCHOOL FOR A WHILE!

LITTLE IDIOT!

SURE, MAYBE! BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

And it became clear then that the youngest, Ren, was actually quite stupid in some respects.

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SAYING THAT?!

WELL I GUESS HE'S JUST TAKING AFTER HIS STUPID OLDER BROTHER

I GUESS THEY'RE HOPE-LESS'

THERE'S NO DEALING WITH THAT ELDEST AND YOUNGEST'

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU TO THE AIRPORT?

I'M SURE YOU HAVE LUGGAGE AFTER ALL

HARUKO-SAN?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STUPID, BUT THIS IS BE-YOND THE PALE!!

Complain

WHAT WAS THAT?

Complain

SURE I'D APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

OH, I'LL GO TOO

YOU'RE GETTING PUNISHED FOR THIS!

...SO?

And so, out of the fry-ing pan...

...and into the fire

WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU THINKING PUTTING ME IN THIS OUTFIT?!

DAMN PERVERT!

Can I take a picture?

HELL NO! YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING OLDER BROTHER!!

Look What is with this fiendish ago rableness?

It seems the eldest brother is just as much an idiot...

SUPER LOVERS #12 END

Scans: amyused Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: fencer_x Typesetting: fencer_x

SUPER LOVERS
#12.5

HARU!!

Just recently,

I added some new footage to my precious Ren collection.

ENOUGH ALREADY!

OOH, THAT WAS CUTE JUST NOW!

THE WAY YOU WERE TAKING OFF THE UNIFORM AND BEING SO EMBARRASSED BY IT...

...

!

WHAT THE-- HEY, WHAT'RE YOU RECORDING THIS FOR?!

whew

IF YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN TAKE IT OFF.

snicker

Good grief...

ALL RIGHT.

SFX: SLAM

KIND OF LIKE--

YOU'VE BEEN SITTING OVER HERE GRINNING LIKE AN IDIOT TO YOURSELF...

DO YOU REALLY FIND IT ***THAT*** AMUSING, HMM??

AH. OWW.

I got these from Kiyo!

THIS SET COMES WITH A TAIL, TOO!

THEN--WE CAN TRY SOME CAT EARS NEXT TIME!

AH, SO YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE UNIFORM, THEN?

KINDA KINKY!

...What the hell is your problem?

I'M THE ONLY ONE ENJOYING IT, C'MON!

GEEZ, WHAT DOES IT HURT?

BUT YOU'RE THE ***ONLY*** ONE! JUST YOU! AND THAT PISSES ME OFF!

ME! AND IT'S MY RIGHT TO BE HURT!

...I SEE.

I GET IT NOW.

THEN WE SHOULD TRY AGAIN NEXT TIME.

HUH?! SERI-OUSLY?!

FOR REAL?? SWEET!! ♡

HOW-EVER,

SMOOCH

WHA-

NO, YOU IDIOT! IT'S NOT THAT.

I JUST WANT TO TRY ALL KINDS OF THINGS WITH YOU!

LEMME GO--

IF YOU LIKE GIRLS' UNI-FORMS SO MUCH, THEN DATE A GIRL.

FROWN

IF YOU LIKE CATS SO MUCH, THEN GET A CAT.

nuzzle nuzzle

I GUESS YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A MAN'S HEART WORK!

.....

GUYS LOVE COSPLAY!

!

SEEING ALL OF THE OUTFITS FOR TANUKI?

REMEMBER HOW YOU GOT SO EXCITED IN THE PETSHOP THE OTHER DAY?

THIS TIME YOU'LL BE THE ONE DRESSING UP.

186 cm →

← skintight

HARU!

THEY HAVE NURSES' UNIFORMS!

OR A FLIGHT ATTEN-DANT?

OR A SHRINE MAIDEN?

googling ↓

WHICH DO YOU LIKE BEST? PICK YOUR FAVO-RITE ONE!

"May that day never come..."

...he thought to him-self.

SUPER LOVERS #12.5 ● END